

LONDON- WEST MIDLANDS ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT

Volume 5 | Technical Appendices

CFA19 | Coleshill Junction

Baseline report (CH-001-019)

Cultural heritage

November 2013

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Department
for Transport

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Appendix CH-001-019

Environmental topic:	Cultural heritage	CH
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1 Introduction

1.1 Structure of the cultural heritage appendices

1.1.1 The cultural heritage appendices for the Coleshill Junction community forum area (CFA019) comprise:

- baseline reports (this appendix);
- a gazetteer of heritage assets (Appendix CH-002-019);
- impact assessment (Appendix CH-003-019); and
- survey reports (Appendix CH-004-019).

1.1.2 Maps referred to throughout the cultural heritage appendices are contained in the Volume 5 cultural heritage map book.

1.2 Content and scope

1.2.1 This baseline provides part of the evidence base, along with Appendices CH-002-019, Appendix CH-003-019 and Appendix CH-004-019 against which the assessment of assets that may be affected by the Proposed Scheme can be determined. It collates information about known and potential heritage assets from a variety of sources and presents a chronological description and discussion of the development of the study area, placing assets within their historical and archaeological context.

1.2.2 The baseline is structured as follows:

- Section 1 provides introductory material relating to the scope of the assessment, study area and key data sources;
- Section 2 provides background info on geology and topography;
- Section 3 provides a chronological description of the archaeological and historical development of the area;
- Section 4 provides an overview of the built heritage resource;
- Section 5 relates to a map regression;
- Section 6 provides a description of the historic landscape, including parks, gardens and important hedgerows;
- Section 7 describes the archaeological character of the route. This is closely related to Appendix CH-003-019;
- Section 8 provides an overview of archaeological understanding and potential; and
- Section 9 provides information sources.

1.3 Study area

- 1.3.1 The Coleshill Community Forum Area (CFA) lies within North Warwickshire District and comprises parts of the civil parishes of Coleshill, Water Orton, Fordbridge, Kingshurst, Smith's Wood, Maxstoke and Shustoke.
- 1.3.2 All non-designated and designated assets within the land required for construction and within 500m of it have been detailed in this baseline assessment. In addition, designated heritage assets have been examined up to 2km either side of the boundary of land required for construction.
- 1.3.3 All identified assets are listed in Appendix CH-002-019 and shown on Maps CH-01-112 to CH-01-113, CH-01-114a and CH-01-124 in the Volume 5 cultural heritage map book.

1.4 Data sources

- 1.4.1 Sources examined as part of this baseline assessment include published secondary sources, cartographic sources, Historic Environment Record data for non-designated heritage assets and English Heritage National Heritage List data for designated assets. A full list of published sources can be found in Section 9 of this appendix.

1.5 Surveys undertaken

- 1.5.1 The following surveys were undertaken as part of the environmental impact assessment (EIA) process:
- Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) survey of the majority of the Proposed Scheme and land around it (see Appendix CH-004-019);
 - hyperspectral survey of the majority of the land around the Proposed Scheme (see Appendix CH-004-019);
 - a programme of non-intrusive surveys including geophysical prospection (see Appendix CH-004-019); and
 - site reconnaissance field inspections to review the setting of historic assets and the character and form of the historic landscape.

2 Geology, topography and landform

- 2.1.1 The underlying geology of the study area is Mercia mudstone and silt-stone, with a band of Arden sandstone towards the south (British Geological Survey data, 1:50,000 scale). This is overlain by glacio-fluvial sands and gravels at the east of the study area in the area of the town of Coleshill, with further localised deposits to the north of the River Cole. Glacio-lacustrine clays and silts occupy an area between the rivers Cole and Tame along with smaller areas of glacial head deposits comprised of clays, silts and gravels.
- 2.1.2 River terrace gravels are present to the west of the River Cole and the south of the River Tame. Both rivers are associated with alluvial deposits, reflecting the extent of their floodplains, particularly in the north of the study area associated with the River Tame. Possible former river channels are associated with the River Cole, on historic aerial photographs of the study area and have been identified in LiDAR data (COLo23; COL104).
- 2.1.3 The study area occupies a low lying landscape between 80m and 100m above Ordnance Datum (AOD) and is clearly defined to the north by the valley of the River Tame which extends east to west. To the south of the Tame the River Cole extends south-west to north-east through the study area, and joins the River Blythe further east beyond the study area. Land rises slightly to the west of the River Cole. To the east and south of the river the town of Coleshill occupies a low ridge of higher ground aligned north to south, extending up to 100m AOD. North of the River Cole a further localised area of higher ground is present at Grimstock Hill up to 100m AOD. These localised higher areas of the landscape appear to equate with areas of Glacio-fluvial sands and gravels.
- 2.1.4 Text on depth of deposits gained from borehole data is to follow.
- 2.1.5 A number of areas within the study area are made up of artificial ground (as defined by the British Geological Survey). Such artificial ground can include archaeological deposits, such as a moat at Coleshill Hall Farm. The majority, however, appear to indicate modern ground disturbance. Artificial ground is associated largely with motorway and road embankments, including parts of the A446 west of Coleshill. Other areas include an embankment west of Coleshill industrial estate and in the vicinity of industrial estates and Coleshill Parkway rail station. Historic landfill sites are recorded between railway tracks at Water Orton and at Station Road, Cole End within a modern industrial estate.

3 Archaeological and historical background

3.1 Early prehistory

Palaeolithic 500,000-10,000BC

- 3.1.1 The Lower and Middle Palaeolithic is most often identified within gravel quarries at a greater depth than later archaeological deposits, and are therefore rarely encountered through archaeological processes of evaluation and excavation¹. Surface finds by independent researchers have, however, been made in the region². The most significant site has been identified in south Warwickshire at Waverley Wood³, whilst Palaeolithic artefacts have also been recorded in north-east Warwickshire⁴. It has been noted that existing major rivers in the region, including the Tame may have potential for Palaeolithic deposits within associated geological sequences⁵. At least two hand-axes in addition to palaeo-environmental deposits of the period have been recorded north-west of the study area in Birmingham^{6,7}. No finds of the Upper Palaeolithic have been recorded within the vicinity of the study area, with the closest to the north-east near Atherstone, Warwickshire⁸.
- 3.1.2 A Palaeolithic hand axe has been recorded at Attleboro Fields Farm, in the parish of Water Orton outside the study area.

Mesolithic 8,500-4,000BC

- 3.1.3 A greater frequency of Mesolithic find-spots has been recorded in the West Midlands region. Beyond the study area, c. 4.5km north-west on the line of the M6 Toll in Staffordshire, a concentration of 1500 Mesolithic flints was recorded in the vicinity of a stream⁹. A substantial assemblage of Late Mesolithic flintwork has also been recorded at Wishaw Hall Farm, Warwickshire, in the vicinity of a stream, c. 4km to the north of the study area¹⁰. Fieldwalking in Sutton Coldfield, c.10km to the north-west of the study area in Birmingham, has recorded Mesolithic flintwork¹¹. Further west Mesolithic settlement has been recorded at Sandwell Priory in the vicinity of a spring^{12,13} and at West Bromwich in the vicinity of a stream¹⁴. It is clear, therefore, that streams, springs and small watercourses may have been a focus for Mesolithic activity in the region¹⁵. More broadly within the West Midlands it has been noted that there is

¹ Lang, A. and Buteux, S. (2007), Lost but not forgotten: the Lower and Middle Palaeolithic occupation of the West Midlands. In: P. Garwood, ed., *The Undiscovered Country: the earlier prehistory of the West Midlands*. Oxbow Books: Oxford, pp. 6-22.

² Ibid., 13.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Ibid., 19.

⁶ Ibid., 7, 11.

⁷ Hodder, M. (2004), *Birmingham: the hidden history*. Tempus: Stroud.

⁸ Myers, A. (2007), The Upper Palaeolithic and Mesolithic archaeology of the West Midlands. In: P. Garwood, ed., *The Undiscovered Country: the earlier prehistory of the West Midlands*. Oxbow Books: Oxford, pp. 23-38.

⁹ Powell, A.B., Booth, P., Fitzpatrick, A.P. and Crockett, A.D. (2008), *The Archaeology of the M6 Toll, 2000-2003*. Oxford-Wessex Monograph 2. Oxford Wessex Archaeology: Oxford and Salisbury.

¹⁰ Hodder (2004), 24.

¹¹ Ibid., 24; Myers (2007), 31.

¹² Hodder (2004), 24.

¹³ Garwood, P. (2011), The earlier prehistory of the west midlands. In: S. Watt, ed., *The Archaeology of the west midlands: a framework for research*. Oxbow Books: Oxford, pp. 9-99.

¹⁴ Myers (2007), 32.

¹⁵ Hodder (2004), 24.

a relative concentration of flint finds within Warwickshire and Worcestershire and some evidence of ephemeral Mesolithic settlement structures has been recorded at two sites in north Warwickshire¹⁶.

Neolithic 4,000-2,400BC

- 3.1.4 A combination of arable cultivation along with the exploitation of wild resources characterised the settlement pattern of the Neolithic¹⁷, with settlement patterns likely to have been transient¹⁸.
- 3.1.5 The evidence for Early Neolithic activity in the region is limited. Most evidence for monuments or significant deposits has been recorded in the peripheries of the region and there is very limited evidence for funerary and ceremonial monuments in the central area of the West Midlands¹⁹. Although flintwork and lithic artefacts are present in the region there is little to suggest settlement foci or sites of repeated activities^{20,21}.
- 3.1.6 Causewayed enclosures have been recorded in northern Staffordshire in the Trent Valley²². There is, however, very little evidence for long barrows within the region²³. Much of the evidence for Neolithic sites consists of pit groups with artefactual assemblages which are present in the southern Warwickshire Avon Valley and more broadly in the West Midlands²⁴. It is notable that Neolithic pits and artefact assemblages have also been recorded within alluvial contexts²⁵. Isolated earlier Neolithic pits have been recorded to the north of the study area at Shenstone, Staffordshire, on locally elevated ground above wetlands²⁶.
- 3.1.7 Much of the evidence for Late Neolithic funerary and ceremonial activity has been recorded beyond the study area including monuments in the Avon Valley, Warwickshire and the Trent-Tame confluence, Staffordshire^{27,28}. Evidence for Late Neolithic settlement structures is particularly rare in the West Midlands and southern Britain generally, and is more likely to be represented by lithic scatters or groups of pits, examples of which have been recorded in southern Warwickshire²⁹. A lack of evidence from the central part of the West Midlands has been used to suggest a potentially genuine low intensity of occupation in this period in certain areas³⁰.
- 3.1.8 Palaeo-environmental data from a palaeo-channel of the River Tame in Birmingham have suggested dense woodland cover in the Late Neolithic in both wetland and dry-

¹⁶ Garwood (2011), 27-8.

¹⁷ Powell et al. (2008), 457.

¹⁸ Cf. Whittle, A. (1997), Moving on and moving around: Neolithic settlement mobility. In: P. Topping, ed., *Neolithic landscapes: Neolithic Studies Group Seminar Paper 2*. Oxbow Monograph 86: Oxford, pp. 15-22.

¹⁹ Garwood (2011), 36-41.

²⁰ Ibid.

²¹ Barfield, L. (2007), Later lithics in the west midlands counties. In: P. Garwood, ed., *The Undiscovered Country: the Earlier Prehistory of the West Midlands*. Oxbow Books: Oxford, pp. 97-108.

²² Garwood (2011), 38.

²³ Ibid., 36.

²⁴ Ibid., 36-38.

²⁵ Ibid., 38.

²⁶ Powell et al. (2008), 191-3.

²⁷ Garwood (2011), 49-57.

²⁸ Buteux, S. and Chapman, H. (2009), *Where Rivers Meet, the archaeology of Catholme and the Trent-Tame confluence*. Research Report 161. Council for British Archaeology: York.

²⁹ Garwood (2011), 55.

³⁰ Ibid., 56.

land contexts³¹. Later Neolithic burnt stone deposits have been recorded above areas of wetland at Wall, Staffordshire³².

- 3.1.9 Residual flintwork including a blade recorded during the excavation of a Roman site at Coleshill is undated, but may potentially reflect Neolithic or Bronze Age activity³³.

3.2 Later prehistory

Bronze Age 2,400-700BC

- 3.2.1 Palaeo-environmental data has identified an increasing herbaceous component within pollen profiles which has been suggested to indicate woodland clearance with increasing evidence for a pastoral field environments, post-dating the late Neolithic, possibly within the Bronze Age³⁴. Any settlement activity in the Early Bronze Age is, however, considered to have been largely transient in nature and characterised by only ephemeral settlement remains and artefact scatters^{35,36,37}. Evidence for Early Bronze Age settlement sites is almost completely absent from the West Midlands and any examination of settlement location is reliant upon the study of known monument distributions, flint scatters and the distribution of metal artefacts^{38,39,40,41}.
- 3.2.2 Significant clusters of Early Bronze Age funerary monuments are known further north in Staffordshire on the gravels of the Trent–Tame confluence and to the east on higher ground in north-east Warwickshire^{42,43}.
- 3.2.3 No funerary monuments of the Early Bronze Age are known within the study area, with none recorded during archaeological works associated with the M6 Toll, both within the study area and further north⁴⁴.
- 3.2.4 Three possible circular cropmarks are present on aerial photographs of 1954 and 1961 (COL005) which may represent Early Bronze Age ring ditches south of the River Cole, where it forms a loop in the south-west of the study area. The cropmarks are located either side of the existing M6 motorway and the western cropmark may lie beneath modern housing development. The antiquity of these features is, however, uncertain. Another circular cropmark south of the River Tame floodplain can be seen on historic aerial photographs east of the A446. The current site of the cropmark appears, however, to be beneath modern residential development.

³¹ Tetlow, E., Geary, B., Halsted, J. and Howard, A.J. (2008), Palaeoenvironmental evidence for Holocene landscape change and human activity at Tameside, Aldridge Road, Perry Barr, Birmingham. *Birmingham and Warwickshire Archaeological Society Transactions* 112, pp. 1-11.

³² Powell et al. (2008), 83.

³³ Magilton, J. (2006), A Romano-Celtic temple and settlement at Grimstock Hill, Coleshill, Warwickshire. *Birmingham and Warwickshire Archaeological Society Transactions* 110, pp. 1-231.

³⁴ Ibid.

³⁵ Whittle (1997).

³⁶ Brück, J. (1999), What's in a settlement? Domestic practice and residential mobility in Early Bronze Age Southern England. In: J. Brück, and M. Goodman, eds., *Making places in the prehistoric world: themes in settlement archaeology*. UCL press: London, pp. 52-75.

³⁷ Halsted, J. (2007), Bronze Age settlement in Shropshire: research potential and frameworks for settlement studies in the West Midlands. In: P. Garwood, ed., *The Undiscovered Country: the earlier prehistory of the West Midlands*. Oxbow Books: Oxford, pp. 166-181.

³⁸ Garwood (2011), 73-75.

³⁹ Halsted (2007).

⁴⁰ Cf. Halsted, J. (2005), *Bronze Age Settlement in the Welsh Marches*. BAR British Series 384: Oxford.

⁴¹ Halsted, J. (2012), *Late Neolithic to Late Bronze Age settlement patterns: the upper Severn valley in context*. Unpublished PhD thesis, University of Birmingham.

⁴² Buteux and Chapman (2009).

⁴³ Garwood (2011), 68-71.

⁴⁴ Powell et al. (2008).

- 3.2.5 A small flint scatter from Hall Walk, to the east of Coleshill Hall Farm, may date to the Bronze Age⁴⁵. The duration and extent of any activity is, however, uncertain.
- 3.2.6 Burnt mounds are an indication of activity which has regularly been dated to the Middle to Late Bronze Age in the West Midlands, with some earlier examples⁴⁶. Several have been recorded in Birmingham to the west and south-west of the study area, often in association with bogs or small water-courses^{47,48}. It is notable that several burnt mounds have been recorded along tributaries of the River Cole in south Birmingham, as part of field survey⁴⁹ and others have been recorded on tributaries of the River Tame⁵⁰. Two burnt mounds were recorded beyond the study area to the north, adjacent to Langley Brook and Collett's Brook, in the vicinity of Middleton, during a watching brief for the M6 Toll scheme⁵¹. Both burnt mounds were located in the vicinity of small water-courses, and have provided radiocarbon dates in the Early and Middle Bronze Age⁵². Other burnt mounds have also been recorded in Warwickshire⁵³.
- 3.2.7 Burnt mounds are often associated with pits or troughs, where water was heated⁵⁴. The function of burnt mounds is uncertain. Interpretations have focussed upon their use for cooking meat, and early interpretations associated them with hunting forays⁵⁵. Alternative interpretations include their function as ritual and medicinal sweat lodges⁵⁶. Burnt mounds, nevertheless, represent specific and repeated short-term activities involving the heating of stone and formed a component of a broader settlement pattern⁵⁷. Where they have been excavated in the West Midlands there is little evidence for artefactual associations or associated settlement⁵⁸. Burnt mounds have, however, been associated with settlement elsewhere in the country⁵⁹ and burnt stone has been recorded in other settlement contexts for the Bronze Age^{60,61}.
- 3.2.8 Other than burnt mounds, the evidence for Middle Bronze Age settlement is rare in the West Midlands⁶² and there is no evidence for the kinds of enclosed or nucleated settlement sites and field lynchets recorded in southern England^{63,64,65}. Evidence for

⁴⁵ Powell et al. (2008), 506.

⁴⁶ Barfield, L.H. and Hodder, M. (1987), Burnt mounds as saunas and the prehistory of bathing. *Antiquity* 61, pp. 370-379.

⁴⁷ Ibid., 40.

⁴⁸ Hodder (2004).

⁴⁹ Ibid., 34-5.

⁵⁰ Ibid., 40.

⁵¹ Powell et al. (2008).

⁵² Ibid., 506.

⁵³ Hurst, D. (2011), Middle Bronze Age to Iron Age: a research assessment overview and agenda. In: S. Watt, ed., *The Archaeology of the west midlands: a framework for research*. Oxbow Books: Oxford, pp. 101-126.

⁵⁴ Barfield, L.H. and Hodder, M.A. (2010), Burnt Mounds in South Birmingham: excavations at Cob Lane in 1980 and 1981 and other investigations. *Birmingham and Warwickshire Archaeological Society Transactions* 114, pp. 13-46.

⁵⁵ O'Kelly, M.J. (1954), Excavations and Experiments in Ancient Irish Cooking Places. *Journal of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland* 83, pp. 105-155.

⁵⁶ Barfield and Hodder (1987).

⁵⁷ Halsted (2007).

⁵⁸ Barfield and Hodder (2010).

⁵⁹ e.g. Ladle, L. and Woodward, A. (2003), A Middle Bronze Age House and Burnt Mound at Bestwall, Wareham, Dorset: an Interim Report. *Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society*, 69, pp. 265-277.

⁶⁰ Garner, D. J. (2007), *The Neolithic and Bronze Age Settlement at Oversley Farm, Styal, Cheshire: excavations in advance of Manchester Airport's Second Runway, 1997-8*. Gifford Archaeological Monographs 1. Oxford: BAR British Series 435.

⁶¹ Hearne, M. and Heaton, M.J. (1994), Excavations at a Late Bronze Age Settlement in the Upper Thames Valley at Shorncliffe Quarry near Cirencester, 1992. *Transactions of The Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society*. 112, pp. 17-57.

⁶² Hurst, D. (2011).

⁶³ Powell et al. (2008), 508.

⁶⁴ Brück (1999).

⁶⁵ McOmish, D., Field, D., Brown, G. (2002), *The field archaeology of the Salisbury Plain Training Area*. English Heritage: Swindon.

Middle Bronze Age funerary practice is also infrequently recorded. Examples of Middle Bronze Age funerary sites are, however, known further north in Staffordshire at Hints⁶⁶ and at Barton-Under-Needwood⁶⁷.

- 3.2.9 Similarly evidence for Late Bronze Age settlement is infrequent in the West Midlands unlike the evidence from further south in the Thames Valley, the south-east and south-west of England⁶⁸. Extensive un-enclosed Late Bronze Age settlement has been recorded in Worcestershire⁶⁹ and a significant Late Bronze Age midden site has recently been recorded in southern Warwickshire⁷⁰. Such midland sites appear to represent the northern limits of a pattern of enclosed and un-enclosed Middle and Late Bronze Age settlement sites in southern Britain⁷¹.

Iron Age 700BC-AD43

- 3.2.10 In the broader region Iron Age settlement has been recorded in south Warwickshire where enclosures and linear boundaries identified as cropmarks, have been associated with settlement^{72,73}. Nucleated settlements have also been recorded at sites such as at Wasperton in the Avon valley⁷⁴.
- 3.2.11 Iron Age settlement is, however, relatively rare in the region as a whole⁷⁵. It is significant, however, that a number of previously unknown Iron Age settlement sites were identified on the line of the M6 Toll, to the north of the study area⁷⁶. These include both enclosed and un-enclosed settlement sites dating from the Middle Iron Age. It is notable that these were identified on non-gravel geologies, unlike sites recorded on the gravels of Staffordshire and southern Warwickshire⁷⁷. Contexts for these sites include small water-courses and south-facing hill-slopes⁷⁸. Some isolated pits with burnt stone have also been recorded beyond the study area to the north⁷⁹. Other isolated Iron Age burnt stone filled features have been recorded in southern Staffordshire at Wall⁸⁰. A pit alignment, excavated as part of the M6 Toll scheme, c. 4.5km north of the study area, is one of the few in Britain with pottery, and intentional deposits, along with radiocarbon-dates falling into the Middle to Late Iron Age^{81,82,83}.

⁶⁶ Krawiec, K., Edwards, E. and Brickley, M. (2010), A Middle bronze age cremation and other prehistoric features at Hints Quarry, Staffordshire. *Staffordshire Archaeological and Historical Society Transactions* 44.

⁶⁷ Martin, A. and Allen, C. (2001), Two pre-historic ring-ditches and an associated Bronze Age cremation cemetery at Tucklesholme Farm, Barton-Under-Needwood, Staffordshire. *Staffordshire Archaeological and Historical Society Transactions* 39, pp. 1-15.

⁶⁸ Yates, D. (2007), *Land, power and prestige: Bronze Age field systems in southern England*. Oxbow Books: Oxford.

⁶⁹ Jackson, R. and Napthan, M. (1998), Interim report on salvage recording of a Neolithic/ Beaker and Bronze Age settlement and landscape at Huntsmans Quarry, Kemerton. *Transactions of the Worcester Archaeological Society* 16, pp. 57-68.

⁷⁰ Waddington, K. and Sharples, N. (2010), The Whitchurch excavations 2006-9: an interim report. *Cardiff Studies in Archaeology Report* 29. Cardiff University: Cardiff.

⁷¹ Yates (2007).

⁷² Hurst (2011).

⁷³ Powell et al. (2008).

⁷⁴ Hurst (2011), 106.

⁷⁵ Ibid., 106.

⁷⁶ Powell et al. (2008).

⁷⁷ Ibid., 514.

⁷⁸ Ibid., 306, 337, 359, 511.

⁷⁹ Ibid., 512.

Halsted, J. (2003), *An archaeological Watching Brief at Manor Farm, Wall*. Birmingham Archaeology Report 1111. Birmingham: Archaeology Birmingham.

⁸¹ Powell et al. (2008), 512.

⁸² cf. Waddington, C. (1997), A review of pit alignments and a tentative interpretation of the Milfield Complex. *Durham Archaeological Journal* 13, pp. 21-33.

⁸³ cf. Halsted (2012).

Other extensive pit alignment systems have been recorded further north in Staffordshire with pottery and Iron Age radiocarbon dates⁸⁴.

3.2.12 At Grimstock Hill, to the north of Coleshill, a phase of settlement with circular structures, pottery, loomweights and querns may be Iron Age or early Roman in date^{85,86}.

3.2.13 A rectangular cropmark is visible in aerial photographs in the vicinity of Coleshill Hall Farm (COLO17, Figure 1). A smaller sub-rectangular enclosure may be present overlaying this feature to the south-west. The cropmark indicates the presence of a banked and ditched enclosure which may date from the Iron Age or Romano-British periods and would be significant in understanding settlement of this period in the study area.

3.3 Romano-British AD43-410

AD43-410

3.3.1 The study area is located mid-way between the Roman road network in the north Warwickshire region, with Icknield Street to the west, Watling Street to the north and the Fosse Way to the east^{87,88}. Sites in the broader vicinity include a fort and settlement at Wall to the north on Watling Street, a fort at Metchley and enclosed farmstead at Longdales Road on Icknield Street to the south-west and a fort and settlement at Mancetter on Watling Street to the east⁸⁹. Pottery production sites are known in the vicinity of Mancetter and in the vicinity of Icknield Street at Perry Barr and Sutton Coldfield⁹⁰. The West Midlands region was rich in natural resources⁹¹. However, evidence for settlement is limited across the region when compared to other areas of Britain and gaps in settlement evidence may reflect a genuine lack of occupation⁹².

3.3.2 Romano-British enclosures and field systems have been recorded along the line of the M6 Toll beyond the study area to the north⁹³. Evidence has been recorded to the south of Watling Street, between the Roman fort at Wall and the temple site at Coleshill⁹⁴. Sites identified on the M6 toll scheme include extensive rectilinear enclosure systems⁹⁵, although none were recorded south of the River Tame.

⁸⁴ Coates, G. (2002), *A Prehistoric and Romano-British Landscape: excavations at Whitemoor Haze Quarry, Staffordshire, 1997-1999*. Oxford: BAR British series 340.

⁸⁵ Booth, P. (1996), Warwickshire in the Roman period: a review of recent work. *Birmingham and Warwickshire Archaeological Society* 100, 25-58.

⁸⁶ Magilton, J. (2006), A Romano-Celtic temple and settlement at Grimstock Hill, Coleshill, Warwickshire. *Birmingham and Warwickshire Archaeological Society Transactions* 110, pp. 1-231.

⁸⁷ Haverfield, F. (1904), Romano-British Remains. In: H.A. Doubleday and W. Page, eds., *Victoria History of the Counties of England: A history of Warwickshire* Volume 1, pp. 223-249.

⁸⁸ Powell et al. (2008), 517.

⁸⁹ Powell et al. (2008).

⁹⁰ Ibid.

⁹¹ Esmonde Cleary, S. (2011), The Romano-British period: an assessment. In: S. Watt, ed., *The Archaeology of the West Midlands: a framework for research*. Oxford: Oxbow Books, pp. 127-147.

⁹² Ibid., 137-9.

⁹³ Powell et al. (2008), 516-535.

⁹⁴ Ibid.

⁹⁵ Ibid., 311-317.

- 3.3.3 Although certain sites were located close to Watling Street, Romano-British enclosures were also identified at a greater distance from the Roman road network such as the site at Langley Mill⁹⁶.
- 3.3.4 Palaeo-environmental evidence from the vicinity of the River Tame in Birmingham suggests an environment of open grassland in the Romano-British period⁹⁷. This may also provide an indication of landscape character within the study area, although there is clearly potential for variation.
- 3.3.5 A Romano-British temple site has been excavated at Grimstock Hill, to the north of Coleshill and to the east of the A446 Lichfield Road^{98,99}. The current known extent of Romano-British activity extends north-west to south-east on higher ground above the floodplain of the River Cole. Several phases have been identified, with a timber structure succeeded by two stone structures within a walled enclosure. Evidence for a bath-house has also been excavated with a hypocaust, together with a well¹⁰⁰. Artefacts dating from the 1st century have been recorded on the site, together with 2nd-4th century pottery. An area of settlement has been recorded to the south of the temple, with rectangular buildings and 2nd century pottery.
- 3.3.6 Approximately 400m south of the temple, more recent excavations east of Ennersdale Road, have identified an east-west-aligned road surface and flanking ditches, with evidence for structures to either side^{101,102}. Post-holes have indicated the presence of a number of substantial timber buildings together with artefactual evidence for domestic occupation¹⁰³. Artefactual evidence has also suggested the presence of a building with under-floor heating and a tiled roof and some evidence for metalworking¹⁰⁴. A possible metallised surface has also been recorded at Wantage Road¹⁰⁵. Finds of Roman pottery, brick and tile have also been recorded to the west of Ennersdale Road, indicating further structures in this area¹⁰⁶. It is clear, therefore, that a significant area of Romano-British settlement existed at Coleshill, to the south of the temple complex and to the west of the River Cole.
- 3.3.7 A significant hoard of c. 3,250 Roman coins has also been recorded at Ennersdale Road, Coleshill, dating to between 310 and 353AD. The location of the hoard may have been influenced by the proximity of the temple site and Romano-British settlement. The distribution of further Roman coin finds at Coleshill broadly accords with the context of known settlement. Four further Roman coin find-spots have been recorded to the north of the River Cole in the vicinity of Coleshill, along with a Roman brooch slightly further to the west. To the south of the River Cole three coins and a decorated object have been recorded, which may indicate further Romano-British activity towards the south of the study area. This is an isolated find, but it is worth noting that

⁹⁶ Ibid., 306-336.

⁹⁷ Tetlow, E., Geary, B., Halsted, J. and Howard, A.J. (2008), Palaeoenvironmental evidence for Holocene landscape change and human activity at Tameside, Aldridge Road, Perry Barr, Birmingham. *Birmingham and Warwickshire Archaeological Society Transactions* 112, pp. 1-11.

⁹⁸ Booth (1996).

⁹⁹ Magilton (2006).

¹⁰⁰ Ibid.

¹⁰¹ Thompson, P. (2006), Coleshill, Ennersdale Road. *West Midlands Archaeology* 49, pp. 85-6.

¹⁰² Thompson, P. (2007a), Coleshill, Ennersdale Road. *West Midlands Archaeology* 50, pp. 69-70.

¹⁰³ Thompson (2006).

¹⁰⁴ Thompson (2007a).

¹⁰⁵ Thompson, P. (2007b), Coleshill, 1 Wantage Road. *West Midlands Archaeology* 50, p. 71.

¹⁰⁶ Thompson 2007a, 70.

a further Roman coin has been recorded to the south-east just beyond the study area at Coleshill High School. Stray finds of metalwork cannot necessarily indicate the presence of more substantial archaeological remains since there may be many factors culminating in the deposition of metalwork. The presence of metal objects in the landscape may, nevertheless, suggest broad areas of activity.

- 3.3.8 The presence of a Roman temple at Coleshill is significant in that very few similar sites have been recognised or excavated in the West Midlands¹⁰⁷, with coin hoards also having been infrequently identified¹⁰⁸. The presence of both at Coleshill raises questions as to the context of the site and the extent of any associated activity in the surrounding landscape¹⁰⁹. Booth has suggested that Coleshill may lie on the course of an unknown Roman road extending between Mancetter to the north-east and Metchley Roman fort in Edgbaston to the south-west, but this is unsubstantiated. The Roman road identified at Ennersdale Road may relate to a more localised network in association with the settlement and temple¹¹⁰.

3.4 Early medieval AD410-1066

AD410-1066

- 3.4.1 There is a lack of archaeological evidence for the early medieval period generally in the region, despite the fact that documentary evidence suggests that many new settlements and churches were established in this period¹¹¹. There may be some potential for early medieval archaeology on river terraces in the region, using sites in Staffordshire and south Warwickshire as a precedent¹¹². It has been suggested that sites where Roman and subsequent medieval settlement have been recorded may have the potential for post-Roman and early medieval archaeology, although this has not been demonstrated¹¹³. It may be notable in this respect that both Roman and medieval archaeology have been recorded at Coleshill.
- 3.4.2 There is little evidence for early medieval activity in the study area. A charter was issued from Coleshill in 799 by Coenwulf II of Mercia, suggesting that a settlement existed at this date¹¹⁴. The fact that Coleshill was a royal manor at the time of Domesday Book and that Coleshill hundred was the largest hundred in Warwickshire, may indicate its significance in the early medieval period^{115,116}.
- 3.4.3 Early English names of important places are often based on topographical features¹¹⁷ as at Coleshill which relates to the 'hill by the River Cole'¹¹⁸. Place names with a 'tun' element may relate to early medieval farms, villages or estates¹¹⁹. Gilson is variously

¹⁰⁷ Esmonde-Cleary (2011), 136-139.

¹⁰⁸ Ibid., 137.

¹⁰⁹ Booth (1996), 39.

¹¹⁰ Thompson 2006; Thompson 2007a.

¹¹¹ Hooke, D. (2011), The post-Roman and the early medieval periods in the West Midlands: a potential archaeological agenda. In: S. Watt, ed., *The Archaeology of the West Midlands: a framework for research*. Oxford: Oxbow Books, pp. 149-172.

¹¹² Ibid., 154-5.

¹¹³ Ibid., 155.

¹¹⁴ Morton, B. (2011), *Coleshill historic town report*. Warwickshire historic towns project, English Heritage Project 5922. Warwick: Warwickshire Historic Environment Record.

¹¹⁵ Ibid., 16.

¹¹⁶ Watkins, A.D. (1982), *The development of Coleshill in the middle ages*. Unpublished B.A. dissertation, University of Birmingham.

¹¹⁷ Hooke, D. (1996), Reconstructing Anglo-Saxon landscapes in Warwickshire. *Birmingham and Warwickshire Archaeological Society Transactions* 100, pp. 99-116.

¹¹⁸ Gelling, M. (1997), *Signposts to the past: place names and the history of England*. 3rd edition. Chichester: Phillimore.

¹¹⁹ Gelling, M. (1974), Some notes on Warwickshire place names. *Birmingham and Warwickshire Archaeological Society Transactions*, 86, pp. 59-84.

referred to as Gilston on post-medieval mapping. The 'ton' element in the name may, therefore, indicate early medieval origins, but this has not been demonstrated archaeologically and the earliest reference to Gilston is not known.

- 3.4.4 The evidence for early medieval activity in Water Orton appears to focus to the south of the existing settlement. A Saxon brooch fragment was found to the south of Water Orton, in the vicinity of Junction 4a of the M6. An early medieval coin of Aethelred II (978-1016) has also been recorded c. 1km to the south of Water Orton. The form, extent and duration of any early medieval settlement at Water Orton are, however, unknown.

3.5 Medieval AD1066-1540

AD1066-1540

- 3.5.1 Both nucleated and dispersed forms of settlement were present across the West Midlands region in the medieval period¹²⁰. Small nucleated settlements in Warwickshire were developing from at least the 11th century¹²¹. A network of small towns developed between the 12th and 14th centuries¹²². Parish churches developed in this period, although the date of foundation of many remains uncertain¹²³. Moated sites were constructed between the 12th and 14th centuries in the region¹²⁴. The uncertain chronology of moated sites in the West Midlands and the lack of secure dating evidence has, however, been highlighted¹²⁵. Moats were also established, alongside a process of assarting, the creation of newly cultivated land from woodland¹²⁶. Moated sites were high status settlements, some of which were associated with manorial complexes, others with farmsteads^{127,128}. Mills are frequently recorded in documentary sources, although few have been identified through archaeological excavation¹²⁹.
- 3.5.2 There is significant documentary evidence for Coleshill in the medieval period. Documentary references also indicate settlements at Gilson within the parish of Coleshill and also at Water Orton. Archaeological evidence relates to a potential medieval moated site at Coleshill with well-preserved earthworks and the remnants of associated parkland. The site of a former castle has also been suggested at Coleshill, just beyond the study area, adjacent to the Church of St Peter and St Paul¹³⁰.
- 3.5.3 Coleshill was surveyed for Domesday Book (1086) when it was described as a royal manor with a priest, a mill and woodland¹³¹. It has been suggested that the woodland accounted for in Domesday Book may have equated to up to 2000 acres within the

¹²⁰ Hunt, J. (2011), The Medieval Period. In: S. Watt, ed., *The Archaeology of the West Midlands: a framework for research*. Oxford: Oxbow Books, pp. 173-209.

¹²¹ Ibid., 176-9.

¹²² Palmer, N. (2003), Warwickshire (and Solihull) – the Medieval period. *West Midland Regional Research Framework Seminar 5: Medieval Period*. 24 February 2003: Warwick.

¹²³ Hunt 2011, 201-2.

¹²⁴ Hodder (2004), 103.

¹²⁵ Hunt (2011), 197.

¹²⁶ Hodder (2004), 103.

¹²⁷ Hodder (2004).

¹²⁸ Hunt (2011), 196-7.

¹²⁹ Ibid., 189.

¹³⁰ Morton (2011), 17.

¹³¹ Salzman, L.F., ed. (1947), *A History of the County of Warwick 4: Hemlingford Hundred*, <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/source.aspx?pubid=286>, Accessed 19 June 2012.

parish¹³². Woodland and marginal land was subject to a process of assarting for agriculture within the Arden region of north Warwickshire generally during the medieval period, including the creation of manorial deer parks¹³³.

- 3.5.4 Two mills are recorded for Coleshill in 1273 and 1316^{134,135}. References to mills continue into at least the fifteenth century, when a mill pond, watergates, dams and floodgates are mentioned¹³⁶.
- 3.5.5 The town of Coleshill is focussed upon a north-south High Street, with the medieval Church of St Peter and St Paul towards the south¹³⁷. Documentary sources also record a communal well in the vicinity of the church¹³⁸. There is some historical evidence for the granting of burgage tenements, which may have developed into burgage plots either side of the High Street^{139,140}. It has been suggested that the original High Street settlement may have been defined by Parkfield Road and Love Lane¹⁴¹. The town held a weekly market, the rights for which were first granted in the 13th century¹⁴². By 1518 the town contained brewers, bakers, butchers and fishmongers¹⁴³. It has been suggested that the narrow division of plots in the northern part of the high street as depicted on historic mapping indicate medieval property boundaries¹⁴⁴.
- 3.5.6 A 13th century document refers to Castle Hill and earthworks have been identified from aerial photographic evidence to the south of the church in a field that has remained undeveloped since at least 1783. The castle may have gone out of use when the manor was no longer in royal hands¹⁴⁵.
- 3.5.7 To the south-west of the town a moated site is located to the north of Coleshill Hall Farm (COL014), with earthworks clearly visible. The site has the potential to date from the medieval period evidence from documentary sources, aerial photographs and non-intrusive surveys indicate that the site is of high significance¹⁴⁶. It has been suggested that this was the site of the Coleshill Manor House. In a document of 1316 a manor house with an enclosure and garden are mentioned at Coleshill together with a park¹⁴⁷.
- 3.5.8 The moated site is clearly visible upon aerial photographic coverage of the area. Three sides of a ditched enclosure are visible on aerial photographs of the 1960s forming an angular circuit which may have been hexagonal or octagonal in its full extent (Figure 1). The whole circuit of the moat is less clear, but the south-western arm of the moat may have been formed by the River Cole (Appendix CH004-019). LiDAR interpretation has suggested five sides of an octagonal circuit are present. In addition

¹³² Wager, S.J. (1998), *Woods, wolds and groves: the woodland of medieval Warwickshire*. British Archaeological Reports British Series 269.

¹³³ Hooke (1996), 109.

¹³⁴ Watkins (1982), 29.

¹³⁵ Hayfield, C. and Watkins, A. (1995), *Coleshill and the Digbys: 500 years of manorial lordship*. Arley: Spring Hill Publications.

¹³⁶ Watkins (1982), 29.

¹³⁷ Morton (2011), 22.

¹³⁸ *Ibid.*, 20.

¹³⁹ Hayfield and Watkins (1995), 9.

¹⁴⁰ Morton (2011), 20.

¹⁴¹ Hayfield and Watkins (1995), 9.

¹⁴² *Ibid.*

¹⁴³ *Ibid.*, 11.

¹⁴⁴ Morton (2011), 25.

¹⁴⁵ *Ibid.*

¹⁴⁶ Hunt (2011), 197.

¹⁴⁷ Hayfield and Watkins (1995), 11.

to the circuit of the moat, earthwork survey has identified a number of associated banks, ditches and terraced areas (Appendix CH004-019).

Figure 1: Aerial photograph showing cropmark enclosure (COL017) in foreground with moated site (COL014) in the background (©English Heritage, Jim Pickering Collection, Permission No. 3280)



- 3.5.9 A parch mark within the area of the moat indicates the layout of rectangular buildings or enclosures (Figure 2). It is significant that these differ in form from the building layout as depicted on Snape's map of 1783. Geophysical survey has suggested that rectilinear anomalies identified within the moated enclosure may relate to a symmetrical walled garden, with possible less distinctive anomalies relating to building remains to the south (Appendix CH-004-019).
- 3.5.10 A rectilinear enclosure (COL017) is located to the north of the moat (Figure 1). The HER suggests that the enclosure may be contemporary with the medieval moated site, but other than physical proximity there is no other evidence to support this.
- 3.5.11 The park may originate in the mid-thirteenth century when rights of 'free warren' were granted¹⁴⁸ and is recorded in a document of 1495¹⁴⁹. The park and deer survived until the early 19th century, and is marked upon historic mapping to the west of Coleshill and immediately to the north-west of Coleshill Hall and moat. LiDAR data has indicated the presence of a surviving park pale boundary earthwork at the northern extent of the park as defined by later historic mapping.

¹⁴⁸ Watkins (1982), 7-10.

¹⁴⁹ Hayfield and Watkins (1995), 11.

Figure 2: Aerial photograph showing moated enclosure (COL014) parchmarks indicating enclosed areas within the circuit of the moat (English Heritage RAF Photography, Permission No.3280)



- 3.5.12 Along with the park a fishery, arable land, meadow and enclosed pastures were also present within the manor in 1495¹⁵⁰. The identification of 'Kiln Field' at this date also indicates industrial production and it is notable that this field name is present to the south of the moated site on later historic mapping¹⁵¹.
- 3.5.13 Historical research on the parish of Coleshill has identified a number of medieval fields, such as 'Parkfield' to the west of the town and 'Grimshillfield' to the north of the town¹⁵². It has been suggested that certain fields identified in thirteenth century documents may be an amalgamation of earlier field areas¹⁵³.

¹⁵⁰ Ibid., 11.

¹⁵¹ Ibid.

¹⁵² Watkins (1982), 7-10.

¹⁵³ Ibid., 11.

- 3.5.14 The analysis of LiDAR data has identified ridge and furrow and relict boundaries within the park at Coleshill. It has been suggested that these may pre-date the formation of the park, indicating that this area of the landscape was previously cultivated. The chronology of the development of the park and the agricultural use of this area in the medieval period is not, however, fully understood. Further ridge and furrow has been recorded to the south of the known extent of the park.
- 3.5.15 To the south of the present Birmingham Road a second possible moated site has been identified through LiDAR interpretation, together with earthwork platforms and enclosures (COL009). A rectangular earthwork anomaly has been recognised on aerial photography at this location which appears to pre-date a field boundary present on historic mapping from 1937.
- 3.5.16 A third possible moated site has been recorded through LiDAR data to the south of Green Lane (COL006). It may be unlikely that three moated sites existed in such close proximity, unless a sequence of these enclosed sites is envisaged. It is clear, therefore, that the form and function of these identified anomalies requires clarification.
- 3.5.17 Gilson is first recorded in documents in the 13th century¹⁵⁴. Medieval fields at Gilson have also been identified in fourteenth century historical documents¹⁵⁵ suggesting that this was a settlement distinct from Coleshill. Agricultural expansion in the thirteenth century in the form of assarting, has also been documented for the parish, including areas between Water Orton and Gilson¹⁵⁶. Areas of ridge and furrow identified through LiDAR analysis to the south of Water Orton may reflect this process. Further ridge and furrow has been identified in areas south of the River Tame which may date from the medieval period. 'Furlong' field names present on later historic mapping to the south of Gilson may indicate areas of medieval open fields.
- 3.5.18 The earliest references to Water Orton date to the 14th century and there is a reference to a bridge over the River Tame in 1459¹⁵⁷. Water Orton was originally a hamlet of Aston to the west, with its original focus close to the bridge over the river¹⁵⁸. The site of a former medieval chapel at Water Orton is located beyond the study area, to the north of the existing railway line. The extent of the historic settlement at Water Orton may, however, extend to the south within the study area. Medieval pottery and a cobbled surface has been recorded at 48 Coleshill Road, towards the south of the settlement indicating that settlement extended further south than the original church. Possible medieval strip fields and ridge and furrow are visible on aerial photographs within existing field patterns towards the south of the settlement. Further medieval finds have been recorded in the vicinity of the old church, just beyond the study area south of the River Tame. A medieval coin has been recorded at Water Orton, although its recorded grid reference places it to the west of Coleshill. It is clear, nevertheless, that both Water Orton and Coleshill were established nucleated settlements in the medieval period.

¹⁵⁴ Morton (2011), 21.

¹⁵⁵ Watkins (1982), 7-10.

¹⁵⁶ Ibid., 12.

¹⁵⁷ Salzman (1947).

¹⁵⁸ Ibid.

3.6 Post medieval AD1450-1901

AD1540-1901

- 3.6.1 The early post-medieval period c. 1550-1750 was characterised by processes of enclosure in rural landscapes and from a shift from arable to pastoral agriculture in certain regions¹⁵⁹. Moated sites in the West Midlands continued to be occupied. Industrial developments in the form of coal mining, and the development of mills for purposes other than corn grinding also began in the earlier post-medieval period. Canals were developed from the 18th century along with turn-pike roads¹⁶⁰.
- 3.6.2 Industrial development clearly characterises the period post 1750, along with the development of railways, urban expansion and the development of public buildings including hospitals and schools¹⁶¹. Many new churches were constructed from the 19th century together with non-conformist chapels, reflecting population expansion during the period.
- 3.6.3 Coleshill is referred to in Leland's Itinerary of the 1530s, where he describes one long street with a church at the south end¹⁶². Both Saxton's map of 1576 and Speed's map of 1610 show the town of Coleshill with a park to the west shown as a schematic oval area either side of the River Cole. References to Coleshill Hall and Park are made in the 16th century when it is mentioned by Leland as belonging to 'Mountford, a knight'¹⁶³, suggesting it was the location of the manor.
- 3.6.4 The existing buildings at Coleshill Hall date from the late 17th century¹⁶⁴ and certain buildings to the south of Birmingham Road may also date from this period and may once have belonged to the hall complex. The hall is referred to as Coleshill Hall Farm in the early 18th century and appears to have lost its significance by this date as the owning family focussed on lands elsewhere. The hall was considered in need of restoration by 1793¹⁶⁵.
- 3.6.5 Snape's map of 1783 depicts the parish of Coleshill in greater detail than earlier cartographic sources. It is notable that an apparently extant moat existed at this time to the north of Coleshill Hall. Only the northern half of the moat appears, however, to be present by this date. A range of buildings are present within the area of the moat, with the easternmost of these extending over the projected eastern arm of the moat ditch. This indicates that the late 18th century hall post-dates an earlier moated site, and may have been utilising the existing moat for the expression of social status and as a deer park boundary.
- 3.6.6 Certain fields are marked as "ancient demesne lands" in 1783 indicating lands that once belonged to the manor. These are located surrounding and including the deer

¹⁵⁹ Parkhouse, J. (2003a), Shakespeare's County: Warwickshire c. 1550-1750. *West Midland Regional Research Framework Seminar*, Seminar 6: Early Post Medieval. 30 April 2003: Ironbridge.

¹⁶⁰ Ibid., 11.

¹⁶¹ Parkhouse, J. (2003b), The archaeology of Warwickshire from 1750: a preliminary note. *West Midland Regional Research Framework Seminar*, Seminar 7: Later Post Medieval. 9 June 2003: Stoke-on-Trent.

¹⁶² Morton (2011), 22-3.

¹⁶³ Morris, R.K. (2005), *Coleshill Hall Farm, Coleshill, Warwickshire: an archaeological and architectural analysis*. Mercian Heritage Report 266. Bromlow: Richard K Morris & Associates.

¹⁶⁴ Morris (2005).

¹⁶⁵ Ibid., 11-14.

park and immediately east of the hall, and suggest that the hall was the site of the manor.

- 3.6.7 Artist's impressions of the hall from this period depict the buildings within a walled enclosure with a formal gated entrance¹⁶⁶. A break in the moat was present in 1783 at the centre of its northern arm, with a tree-lined avenue extending north-eastwards into the deer park. Two small structures were present the east and west of the entrance which indicate a formal symmetrical arrangement. A small break is also notable in the western arm of the moat indicating a further entrance into the park. To the east of the hall and road a further avenue is suggested by the enclosure pattern, aligned approximately north-west to south-east. There appears, therefore, to have been two formal approaches to the hall from the east and north. This is supported by geophysical survey results which indicate entrances and a symmetrical arrangement of enclosures, pathways and walls possibly representing a walled garden to the north of the former hall (Appendix CH-004-019).
- 3.6.8 Opposite the hall, to the south-east of the road, two parallel rectangular buildings are located adjacent to a pond, as depicted on mapping of 1783. These buildings may be part of the hall complex and appear to pre-date the existing configuration of buildings on the site¹⁶⁷. To the south 'Kiln Meadow' may indicate industrial activity in the vicinity of these buildings, possibly associated with production for the hall. To the east of this land parcel, 'Dovehouse Meadow', appears to indicate the former presence of a dovecote.
- 3.6.9 In 1783 the deer park is marked to the west of the town, extending to the east and west of the River Cole. The northern boundary of the deer park appears to be marked by a strip of woodland. The curvilinear boundary pattern suggests that the western boundary of the park may have previously extended further north, enclosing land south of Gilson. Small land parcels named 'New Meadow' and 'New Piece', indicate encroachment into the park by this date.
- 3.6.10 A formal pond and island feature is present within the park to the west of the hall (COLo19). The field immediately to the west is 'Decoy Field', and suggests that the pool and island related to the hunting and capture of wildfowl. It is clear therefore, that in addition to the deer park other managed food resources were located in close proximity to the hall complex. The elaborate depiction of the duck pond and island in the 18th century indicates that such resources were also an expression of social status, building on that of an extensive deer park. Also within the park to the north is a Keeper's Lodge with a rectangular enclosure and small pool. Outside the north-west corner of the park boundary is a probable barn within Mantles Barn Close, and further west the field name Clay Pits.
- 3.6.11 To the east of the deer park a windmill is depicted on the western side of the town of Coleshill. To the north of the town a mill was also present in 1783, west of the bridge over the River Cole, together with a probable mill stream and pool. Mill streams are also depicted south of the River Tame, extending to a mill, subsequently named Forge Mills, just beyond the study area.

¹⁶⁶ Hayfield and Watkins (1995).

¹⁶⁷ Morris (2005), 15.

- 3.6.12 To the north of Coleshill the settlement at Gilson is marked on Speed's map of 1610. In 1783 formal gardens and an orchard are present at Gilson Hall. To the west of the hall is a 'Dovehouse' field name, and to the east is a field named 'Windmill Piece'. Further north a 'Toll gate' was present on the road extending to the north of Gilson.
- 3.6.13 Yates' map of Warwickshire (1793) depicts Coleshill Hall and park to the south-west of the town. The hall and park appear to have remained significant components of the landscape at this date. Coleshill park is also clearly defined on the Greenwoods' map of 1822, suggesting it remained in use at this date. By 1834 Coleshill Hall is marked as Coleshill Old Hall, and the area of the park has reduced in size. A non-conformist chapel on the western side of Coleshill was constructed by 1834.
- 3.6.14 By the time of Valentine's plan of 1845, the extent of Coleshill Park has reduced further and is confined to lands west of the River Cole, with areas to the east of the river characterised by enclosed agricultural land. The northern and western extents of the park are well defined by woodland and track-ways. Coleshill Hall is depicted at this date although the moated site is not shown and appears to have gone out of use.
- 3.6.15 To the south of Coleshill Hall the group of buildings on the southern side of the road appear to have been re-modelled since Snape's late 18th century map. Associated with these buildings is a pond linked to a channel draining into the river. A further pond and stream linked to the river is depicted to the west of the hall. The function of these pond features is uncertain, but they suggest the need for a stable supply of water.
- 3.6.16 To the north of Coleshill the mill is depicted extending over the river in 1845. A probable mill stream and associated channels feed a mill-pond from the west, enabling the control of water power. It is notable that a weir is marked on Ordnance Survey (OS) mapping of 1888 where the mill stream joined the Cole to the west, and is likely to date to at least the 18th century. The mill and associated mill pool and streams at Coleshill continued in use until at least 1909¹⁶⁸. The mill is marked as dis-used by mapping of 1924.
- 3.6.17 Coleshill Hall Hospital and attached coach house and stable block (now Coleshill Manor Office Campus) date from 1873 when it was constructed as a residence for John Digby, whose family association with Coleshill Hall dates from the 17th century¹⁶⁹. The new manor house replaced the earlier hall to the south, which was occupied by the tenant farmers¹⁷⁰. By 1888 there appears to have been some alteration to the structures at Coleshill Hall Farm on either side of the road.
- 3.6.18 Coleshill Hall Farm remained in use in 1921¹⁷¹. The later Coleshill Manor and associated parkland was converted into a mental institution in 1925 by Birmingham Corporation¹⁷².
- 3.6.19 To the east of Coleshill Hall Hospital and attached coach house and stable block (now Coleshill Manor Office Campus) a number of broad linear cropmarks marks are

¹⁶⁸ Ordnance Survey Third Edition, outline issue.

¹⁶⁹ Hayfield and Watkins (1995).

¹⁷⁰ Kelly's Directory of Warwickshire (1884), London: Kelly &co.

¹⁷¹ Kelly's Directory of Warwickshire (1921), London: Kelly &co.

¹⁷² Kelly's Directory of Warwickshire (1936), London: Kelly &co.

apparent, although their origin is uncertain (COLo22). The cropmarks are co-axial, regular and on a similar alignment to boundaries on the 1845 plan and are likely, therefore, to be post-medieval in date.

- 3.6.20 The presence of Brickhill Street to the south of Wheeley Moor Hall in the 1830s indicates the presence of brick production in the vicinity. Brick-works and marl pits present beyond the study area to the south had, however, gone out of use by the late 19th century.
- 3.6.21 To the west of Coleshill park 'Blacksmith's Close' indicates further activities associated with the rural economy in the late 18th century. To the west of Coleshill at a crossing of the River Cole an Inn was present at Bacon's End Bridge in 1793.
- 3.6.22 Water Orton is depicted in cartographic sources from 1576 to the south of the River Tame. Two bridges over the River Tame are shown at this date, one directly to the north of Water Orton and the other to the east, linking with Curdworth north of the river. A deer park is located to the west of Water Orton on mapping of 1576 and 1610, at the boundary of the current study area, but is no longer marked by the later 18th century.
- 3.6.23 Mapping of 1793 indicates the location of the chapel at the northern end of the principal network of roads at Water Orton. To the north-east of Water Orton toll gates were present from at least 1783 and continued in use until at least 1834, on a turnpike road which crossed the River Tame.
- 3.6.24 The chapel at Water Orton was still in use at the time of the Tithe survey of 1833. Many narrow strip fields to the east, west and south of Water Orton at this date may reflect the location of earlier agriculture. The field 'Mill Green' immediately west of Curdworth Bridge, may indicate the site of a former mill on the River Tame.
- 3.6.25 By 1872 the Birmingham to Derby railway had been constructed through Water Orton, with an associated station. By 1888 the area to the south of the railway had been significantly developed with a Methodist chapel and the Digby Hotel for example, reflecting the requirements of an increased population. The medieval chapel of St Peter and St Paul is disused by this date and a new church has been established south of the railway.
- 3.6.26 By 1924 the Kingsbury to Water Orton branch of the railway had been built and to the west of Water Orton a large area of railway sidings had been developed. Some further industrial development can be seen in the presence of sludge drying beds to the north of the River Tame. Some further residential development had taken place in Water Orton by the late 1930s but the area remained largely unchanged.
- 3.6.27 Numerous former field boundaries have been recorded in the study area through the analysis of LiDAR data. More than one phase of field boundary enclosure have been identified on river terrace gravels just south of the Tame along with ridge and furrow which may be medieval or post-medieval in date.

3.7 20th century/modern AD1901-present

AD1901-present

- 3.7.1 The study area is located directly to the east of Birmingham and the West Midlands conurbation. Significant proportions of the area have consequently been subject to industrial development and transport infrastructure. There are, nevertheless, areas of the landscape that have remained free of modern development.
- 3.7.2 Historic OS mapping indicates that groups of ancillary buildings and associated access roads at Coleshill Hall Hospital dated from the 1950s. These are present on aerial photographs of 1992, but have since been demolished. Further commercial development which is relatively limited in extent has since taken place around the hall. Aerial photographs indicate that much of the former parkland has been ploughed during the 20th century.
- 3.7.3 By the 1930s development at Coleshill has begun to expand southwards along Coventry Road, to the east of Wheeley Moor Farm and along Hall Walk to the north.
- 3.7.4 Modern housing development has taken place in Coleshill, particularly since World War II and the extent of modern expansion of the town extends largely to the west of the historic core and to the north of the River Cole. New road infrastructure was constructed to the west of the town by the mid-1950s.
- 3.7.5 By the mid-1950s, significant industrial development had taken place east of Water Orton either side of the River Tame. To the west of the study area extensive residential expansion had taken place at Castle Bromwich after World War II. This expansion extended eastwards with Kingshurst parish largely developed by the 1960s and Smith's Wood and Fordbridge parishes almost completely developed by the 1980s. The M6, M42 and M6 Toll motorways were constructed through the study area in the 1960s, 1980s and 2000s respectively.

4 Built heritage

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 This section provides baseline information relating to built heritage assets within the land required for construction, 500m study area and wider 2km study area. The section provides the following information:

- broad overview of the character and form of the settlement pattern within the area;
- detailed descriptions of all built heritage assets wholly or partially within the land required for construction; and
- detailed descriptions of key designated assets within the 500m study area.

4.1.2 Information on designated assets within the 2km study area, but outside of the 500m study area, can be found in the Gazetteer in Appendix CH-002-019 as can information on non-designated assets within the 250/500m study area.

4.2 Overview of settlement character

4.2.1 The historic settlement pattern within the Study Area is formed by the town of Coleshill to the east and Water Orton to the north, both of which are located at historic crossing points of rivers. Coleshill is located on a north-south ridge of higher ground with the historic settlement to the south of the River Cole. Water Orton is located to the south of the River Tame. Both settlements include conservation areas.

4.2.2 The west of the study area is characterised by a modern urban conurbation west of the M6 motorway. Between the modern urban settlement in the west and Coleshill to the east are open areas bisected by the M6, M42 and M6 Toll. These agricultural areas include a number of designated built heritage assets. East of the town of Coleshill is an open agricultural landscape which includes a number of dispersed built heritage assets.

4.2.3 Coleshill Hall Farm (COLo51) is located to the west of Coleshill and adjacent to the River Cole. The buildings are grade II listed and are located adjacent to a former moat and the site of a hall, all of which are located within a former deer park. The former hall and park may have medieval origins and equate with the medieval manor and park mentioned in documentary sources. Extant buildings include a former stable block of the hall. Further non-designated buildings to the east of Birmingham Road may also have been associated with the hall and farm complex from at least the 18th century (COLo11).

4.2.4 Coleshill Manor (COLo52) is a grade II listed former large country house built in 1873, to replace the former hall to the south and was constructed within the former deer park.

4.2.5 Gilson Hall (COLo53) is an 18th century grade II listed farmhouse located to the east of the small settlement of Gilson. A group of former farm buildings arranged around a courtyard are located to the south-west of the hall.

- 4.2.6 The Coleshill Conservation Area encompasses the historic centre of Coleshill, focussing on the High Street and adjoining streets (COLo77). Its focal point is Church Hill and the grade I listed Church of St Peter and St Paul, from where there are commanding views to the east over the Blythe valley (COLo56). At the northern end of the conservation area is Coleshill Bridge, a scheduled monument and grade II* listed road bridge which forms a key approach to the town from the north (COLo68).
- 4.2.7 A further conservation area focuses on Coventry Road in the south of the town of Coleshill (COLo76). Included within the conservation area is the Roman Catholic Church of Sacred Heart and Saint Theresa (COLo61). Views beyond Coventry Road are limited due to the development surrounding the conservation area on east and west sides. The views are predominantly north and south along the Coventry Road itself. There are some longer views out to the east and from the Blythe valley westwards towards the Coventry Road area.
- 4.2.8 Water Orton Conservation Area is focussed on the oldest remaining parts of Water Orton at the northern part of the town including Old Church Road (COLo78). The conservation area includes two listed buildings The Chestnuts and Wakefield House (COLo70). At the north of the settlement is Water Orton Bridge a Scheduled monument and grade II* Listed stone bridge constructed c. 1520 and spanning the River Tame (COLo69).
- 4.2.9 East of Coleshill is the grade I listed Blyth Hall dating from the 16th century, with subsequent alteration (COLo72). The principal facade of the hall faces south-east, along an avenue of trees with the areas to the west of the hall heavily wooded and planted.

4.3 Built Heritage assets within the land required for construction

- 4.3.1 Built Heritage assets within the land required for construction include a number of designated and non-designated structures, with agricultural buildings and those relating to former small scale industry.

Coleshill Hall Farm (COLo51)

- 4.3.2 At Coleshill Hall Farm the extant buildings include a grade II listed stable block incorporating a farmhouse (Figure 3). The buildings were once part of a hall complex depicted on mapping and illustrations from the 18th century, but with likely earlier origins as part of a moated manor complex. The two storey brick building has stone dressings and a hipped tile roof dating to the late 17th century, with later alterations and wings. The roof has a timber queen post structure. It is thought to have been the main stable block to the former Coleshill Hall manor house and could have originally incorporated a coach house at its southern end and barns to the north. Further buildings are more likely to date to the 18th-20th centuries as cowhouses or milking parlours, possibly on the footprint of former buildings.

Figure 3: Coleshill Hall Farm (photograph)



The contribution setting makes to the significance of the asset

- 4.3.3 The farmhouse sits within a rural area with few buildings or screening surrounding it. To the north are agricultural fields which include the remains of a moat and site of a former hall (COLo14) with which the buildings are historically associated. Remains of a former deer park are present forming part of an open agricultural landscape to the north and west, with which the buildings were also associated (COLo15). The later Coleshill Hall (now Coleshill Manor Office Campus; COLo52), built to replace a hall on the site of Coleshill Hall Farm, is visible from the buildings on higher ground within the parkland. The setting of Coleshill Hall Farm is, therefore, directly associated with a landscape setting which contributes significantly to an understanding of its historical context and development.

Capitol Joinery timber yard (Colo11)

- 4.3.4 The current Timber Yard at Birmingham Road (COLo11) is a non-designated complex of red brick single storey and two storey buildings with tile hipped roofs. Some of the buildings appear to have a timber frame. The complex may have originally been a tannery or other form of small industry supporting the wider Coleshill Park estate and are directly to the east of Coleshill Hall Farm. Buildings on the site are depicted on historic mapping as early as 1783, north of a small pool and stream. The site was remodelled by 1845, but at least one building present in the 18th century, and containing timber within its construction, appears to survive at the building complex. Further extant buildings appear to date from the 19th century and are present on mapping of 1845 and OS mapping from the 1880s.

The contribution setting makes to the significance of the asset

- 4.3.5 Certain buildings are adjacent to Birmingham Road, with others set back from the road. Coleshill Hall Farm (COLo51) with which the buildings appear to have been historically associated, is visible to the north, opposite the complex. Agricultural land is present to the south and the River Cole to the west, with which the historic complex may once have been more closely associated for both agricultural and industrial activities.

The Old Barn (COLo81)

- 4.3.6 The Old Barn is a non-designated building also located to the east of Coleshill Hall Farm and is present on historic mapping from at least 1845 (COLo81). At this date the buildings are depicted as a 'U'-shaped range. The extant buildings appear to be timber framed but with modern brick infill and hipped tile roofs. The buildings have been converted and are now used as a home and Bed and Breakfast accommodation. There appears to be a dovecote structure within the grounds. This building is not marked on historic mapping, yet the field to the south is marked as 'dovehouse meadow' in 1783.

The contribution setting makes to the significance of the asset

- 4.3.7 The Old Barn is set back from Birmingham Road. Its relationship with Coleshill Hall Farm to the north is screened by existing planting. An agricultural landscape is present to the south, with which the barn may have been historically associated. The former barn lies to the south of Hall Walk, a trackway or former avenue extending to Coleshill Hall Farm. The agricultural landscape within which the old barn is located is closely related to the group of buildings at the former hall at Coleshill Hall Farm and therefore contributes to the significance of the Old Barn as part of a wider historic building complex.

4.4 Key built heritage assets within 500m of the land required for construction

Coleshill Hall Hospital and attached coach house and stable block (now Coleshill Manor Office Campus; Col o52)

- 4.4.1 Coleshill Hall Hospital is a grade II listed former country house and is located directly to the west of the Proposed Scheme. The building was constructed in 1873 of red and blue brick in a gothic style with a notable central tower (Figure 4). Associated buildings include a coach house and stable block to the west, set around courtyards.
- 4.4.2 The house was subsequently converted into a hospital in the 1920s as a 'training colony for mental defectives'. During the 1950s and 60s, additional separate accommodation blocks were constructed in the grounds of the Hall to the north-east. In the 1990s the hospital was converted into a business park, which included the construction of some new buildings. The former hospital accommodation blocks were demolished and the wider parkland landscaped.

Figure 4: Coleshill Hall Hospital (photograph)



The contribution setting makes to the significance of the asset

- 4.4.3 The building sits in a prominent location within the wider parkland, being on higher ground. The building would have originally sat in a relatively secluded area of park and woodland. Modern landscaping, the addition of new access drives and commercial buildings, has however, altered the original setting. The M42 and M6 carriageways bordering the edges of the estate to the north, east and west have very much denuded the historic feel of the setting.

Gilson Hall (Colo53)

- 4.4.4 Gilson Hall (Colo53) is a grade II listed early 18th century farmhouse located directly to the west of the Proposed Scheme, to the east of the settlement at Gilson. The hall is a red brick farmhouse with hipped roof, originally arranged on a U-shaped plan, with the former courtyard since infilled.

The contribution setting makes to the significance of the asset

- 4.4.5 The principal facade faces to the south-east overlooking farmland. The house is located at the northern extent of the settlement along a private track and away from the main Gilson Road. Agricultural fields to the south, east and north of the hall contribute to an understanding of its historical context, set apart from the settlement along Gilson Road, and contribute to its significance.

Listed Buildings at Coleshill High Street (COLo55)

- 4.4.6 A group of 31 grade II listed buildings are located on the north-south aligned High Street (COLo55). The buildings are typically of two and three stories, constructed from

red brick and date from the 18th to 19th centuries. There is the occasional building which is earlier in date and timber framed.

The contribution setting makes to the significance of the asset

- 4.4.7 Views of the buildings and from the buildings are relatively confined given the built up surrounding area and are typically focussed along the high street. There are no significant longer distance views from these buildings.

Listed Buildings at Coleshill High Street (COLo54)

- 4.4.8 A further group of four grade II listed buildings are located at the northern end of the High Street at Coleshill (COLo54). The listed buildings range in date from the early 16th century to the early 19th century. Three of the buildings are two storey red brick buildings with 37 High Street is timber framed with brick infill and dates from the 16th century.

The contribution setting makes to the significance of the asset

- 4.4.9 The buildings are surrounded by development within the town with no significant views.

Group of non-designated cottages located at the south of the settlement at Gilson (COLo83)

- 4.4.10 A range of 19th century buildings including a lodge and cottage, in a rural location, at the southern part of the settlement close to the junction with the Gilson Drive.

The contribution setting makes to the significance of the asset

- 4.4.11 The setting of the buildings contributes towards the rural and isolated character of the settlement and the significance of the building group.

Group of outbuildings to the west and south of Gilson Hall, Gilson (COLo84)

- 4.4.12 A Group of non-designated former outbuildings to the west and south of Gilson Hall. This includes a range of former barns which have since been converted for individual residences. Two of the barns are depicted on mapping of 1783. Two small brick built outbuildings are located to the rear of Gilson Hall, to the rear of the existing boundary wall.

The contribution setting makes to the significance of the asset

- 4.4.13 The outbuildings are located within agricultural fields to the east of the settlement at Gilson and adjacent to the hall. The significance of the setting of the buildings lies in their close proximity to the hall. The agricultural fields also form part of the historical context of the outbuildings and therefore contribute to their significance.

Attleboro Farm and Barns (COLo87)

- 4.4.14 A non-designated 19th century farmhouse and barns which have since been converted to individual residences. The western edge of the gardens bound the M42 and M6 carriageway.

The contribution setting makes to the significance of the asset

- 4.4.15 To the east of the farm are agricultural fields which contribute to the historical context of the farm. To the west and south are the M6 and M42 motorways, forming a junction at this location and which serve to denude the setting of the asset and its historic landscape context.

5 Historic map regression

- 5.1.1 The analysis of the cartographic evidence for the study area has been integrated within the archaeological and historical baseline narrative (Sections 4.6-4.8 above).
OR a section on historic map regression to be included.

6 Historic landscape

6.1 Historic landscape characterisation

- 6.1.1 The Coleshill Junction Study Area is defined by urban development, with the settlement of Coleshill to the east, Birmingham to the west, Water Orton to the north. The M6, M42 and M6 toll extend through agricultural land in the central part of the study area. Of the agricultural land, large, irregular field boundaries characterise the Study Area and are the result of piecemeal enclosure that was subsequently opened up into larger fields. Some ridge-and-furrow has been reported in the area south of Water Orton, confirming the previous landscape character as open field. Many of the fields adjacent to the River Cole are characterised as floodplain. Though most of the countryside of the Study Area consists of large, irregular fields, there are some areas of planned enclosure, likely created when the area was enclosed by Act of Parliament in 1780.
- 6.1.2 Snape's 1783 map of the parish of Coleshill shows the diversity of field patterns, from the small, rectilinear fields between the town and the deer park, to the small, irregular fields near Gilson and southwest of the deer park in the bends of the River Cole. Helpfully, Snape's map also provides field names, many of which provide an insight into their history. Fields with names such as Birch Hill, Grove, Cradle Hurst, Birchy piece, and several with Ridden as an element, infer a history of the field related to previous woodland¹⁷³. Additional fields, such as Pit Leys and Hill Leys, suggest that this was likely wood-pasture. Others, with the element Park included in the field name (Young's Park, Preston Park, Harris's park, Urchins Park, etc.) indicate the deer park on the 1783 map may have at one time been much larger. Various fields also include the elements Hall and Nook implying small encroachments on another type of land¹⁷⁴ (in this case, the deer park). To the north of the deer park, fields with the element of Furlong refer to previous uses as open fields. Longlands field also refers to an earlier use as part of an open field system. One field at the northern end of Coleshill, called Intake, refers to the enclosure of a former common.
- 6.1.3 A deer park is recorded at Coleshill in documents of 1316 and 1495¹⁷⁵. As mentioned above, the deer park marked on Snape's map may be smaller than what was originally emparked. It may also be that this park represents a laund, or lawn, where the deer could graze while valuable wood-pasture could regenerate without fear of overgrazing¹⁷⁶. Such areas could also serve to keep a supply of deer at the ready, should their meat be required at short notice or without time for a hunt. As such, one would expect to find the boundaries of the interior deer park to be well-defined, as Snape's map clearly does, illustrating not only hedgerows ringing the edges of the park, but also what appears to be a fence around the north and west portion of the park. Traces of these features are legible in the current landscape as banks, ditches and hedgerows.

¹⁷³ Gelling, M. (1993), *Place-Names in the Landscape*. London: J.M. Dent.

¹⁷⁴ Muir, R. (2000), *The new Reading the Landscape: fieldwork in Landscape history*. Exeter: Exeter University Press.

¹⁷⁵ Hayfield and Watkins (1995), 11.

¹⁷⁶ Muir (2000).

- 6.1.4 A number of historic pathways exist within the landscape of the Study Area. These include Hall Walk which extends from Coleshill Hall Farm towards the south-east and exists as a slightly raised broad pathway defined by ditches, hedgerows and trees either side. Another pathway, Green Lane, connects the edge of Chelmsley Wood to the Coleshill area, though stopping before it intersects with the High Street at Coleshill. A further pathway extends from the M6 across the deer park to Manor Drive, which is marked as a footpath and the southern boundary of Coleshill Park on the 1889 OS map.
- 6.1.5 To the west of the M6 and along the River Cole is an area characterised as Public Open Space. This is floodplain of the River Cole, shown on Snape's 1783 map as a combination of meadows and fields. Of interest are two field names, Brother's Meadow and Brother's Close, which may indicate an earlier, ecclesiastical connection.

6.2 Historic parks and gardens

- 6.2.1 There are no grade I, II* or II Registered Parks within 2km of the area of land take. Non-designated parks and gardens of local historical significance are described below.
- 6.2.2 A former deer park is located to the west of the town of Coleshill. A park at Coleshill is recorded in medieval documents along with a manor house¹⁷⁷. The park is depicted on historic mapping from 1783 to the north of a moated site and former hall, which may be the site of the medieval manor house. The park boundaries are clearly defined to the north and west in mapping of 1783. These boundaries enclose a keeper's lodge at this date, a duck decoy pool and formal tree plantings. Subsequent mapping depicts Coleshill Hall Hospital and attached coach house and stable block (now Coleshill Manor Office Campus) at the centre of the park, built in the late 19th century and later buildings associated with its conversion into a hospital (COL052). Remains of former 20th century accommodation buildings associated with the hospital are visible within the park.
- 6.2.3 The northern and western boundaries of the park as depicted in the 18th centuries have survived within the landscape. The extant boundary is formed of a ditch and banks, surrounded by woodland planting. The ditch appears to have been extensively cleaned out in recent years. It is notable that a well defined bank is present on the interior of the ditch along the south-west section of the boundary. The date of this bank is uncertain (Figure 5).
- 6.2.4 Some modern development associated with the Hall's use as a business park has taken place within the park, alongside access roads and associated landscaping. Much of the park is, however, in agricultural use.

¹⁷⁷ Hayfield and Watkins (1995), 11.

Figure 5: The park boundary at Coleshill (photograph, looking south-west)



6.3 Important hedgerows

- 6.3.1 Two important hedgerows form the boundary of the former Coleshill Park. To the north and west of the park the hedgerows follow the deer park boundary as depicted in mapping of the 18th century and follow the line of a boundary ditch. To the south a hedgerow defines the southern extent of the known medieval and post-medieval parkland.

7 Archaeological character

7.1 Introduction

- 7.1.1 To determine the archaeological potential for the study area, it was sub-divided into archaeological character areas (ACA). These ACAs are derived from a consideration of the current topography, geology and current land use of the area. From these factors the potential for recovery of archaeological remains are considered.
- 7.1.2 From these broad character areas, the landscape was further subdivided into archaeological sub-zones (ASZ), which have allowed for a more in-depth understanding of the archaeological potential of the CFA. The study area has been sub-divided into 10 ASZs. Although initially defined and characterised by current land use, a number of additional factors have determined the potential of these sub-zones to contain archaeological remains of significance. These factors include topography, geology, historic character and distribution of known archaeological finds, sites and assets.

7.2 Character areas

- 7.2.1 The ACAs described below extend from south-north within the study area.

ACA1 North Arden and Cole valley

- 7.2.2 The study area is at the northern extent of the Warwickshire Arden and is characterised by the valley of the River Cole. The Arden extends across the higher areas of north Warwickshire and is characterised, historically, by woodland¹⁷⁸. Significant areas of woodland in the parish of Coleshill have been documented in Domesday Book¹⁷⁹. The colonisation of woodland for agriculture within the Arden is documented from the medieval period and new settlements such as moated sites and newly enclosed areas were created¹⁸⁰. It is clear from the medieval towns of Coleshill and Water Orton, that nucleated settlements also developed within this broad zone.
- 7.2.3 The River Cole extends through a generally flat landscape in a south-west to north-east direction and joins the River Blythe to the north-east of the study area. A ridge of higher ground at Coleshill defines the valley on its eastern side with further localised areas of higher ground to the west.
- 7.2.4 The area is presently characterised by existing major motorway infrastructure in addition to 19th and 20th century development. Pockets of the landscape characterised by agriculture and former parkland do, however, remain undisturbed.

ACA2 The Tame valley

- 7.2.5 The River Tame forms a natural boundary in the north of the study area and is aligned approximately east to west. The river forms the historic parish boundary, but is also likely to have formed a significant topographical feature in earlier periods. Extensive areas of alluvium are associated with the river, marking the extent of historic

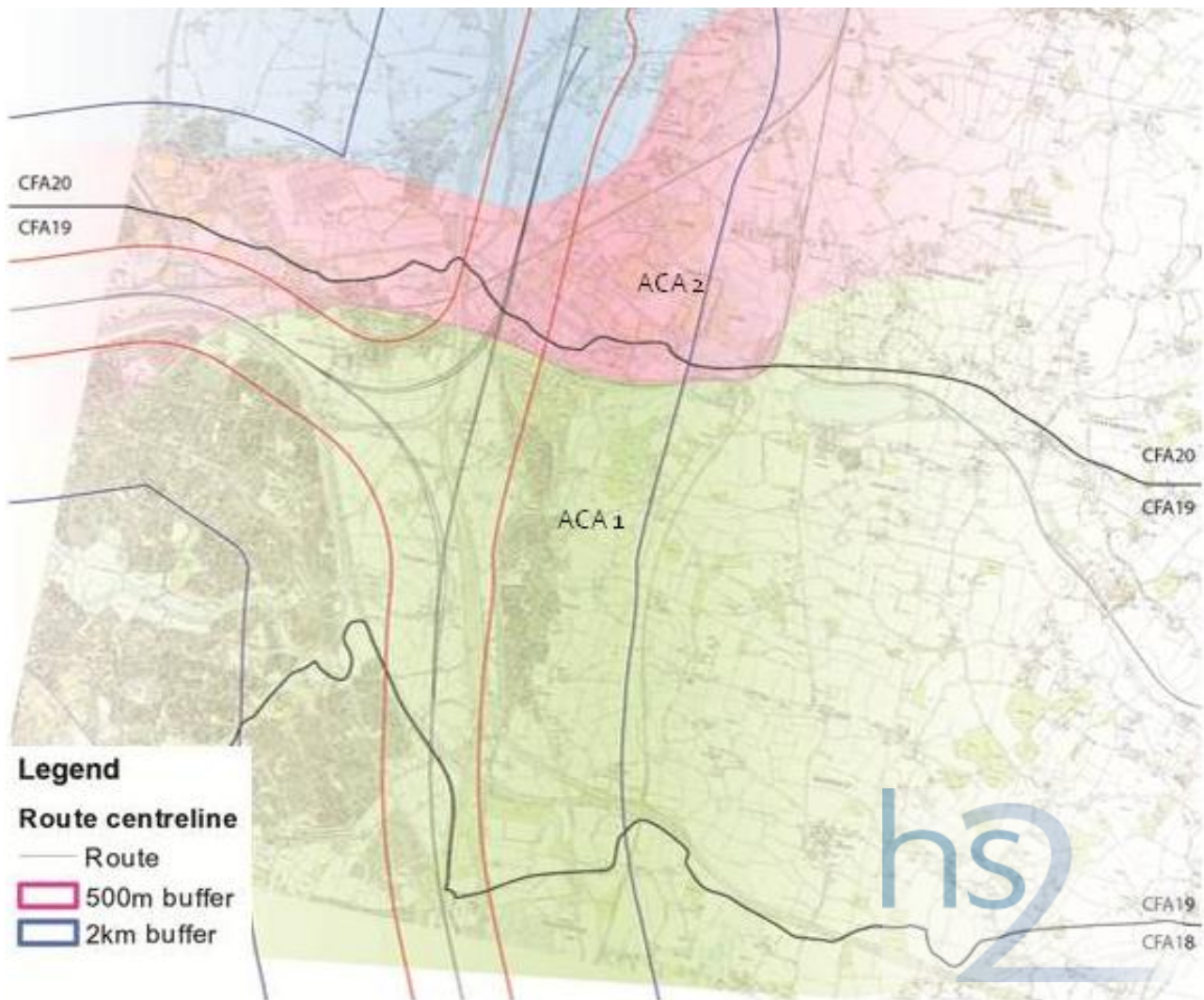
¹⁷⁸ Hooke (1996), 104.

¹⁷⁹ Wager (1998), 74.

¹⁸⁰ Hooke (1996), 109.

floodplains, particularly at the confluence with the rivers Blythe and Cole to the north-east of the study area. The River Tame has been subject to areas of significant industrial development, in the 20th century, on both its southern and northern banks.

Figure 6: Archaeological character areas



7.3 Archaeological sub-zones

- 7.3.1 The ASZs are presented in table 1 from south-north within the study area. Plans showing the sub-zones can be found in Appendix 5 (CH-03-054; CH-03-055; CH03-066).

Appendix CH-001-019 | Archaeological character

Table 1: Archaeological subzones

No	Name	Topography	Geology/soils	Modern land use	Historic landscape character (HLC)	Archaeology
1	Coleshill Town	The town of Coleshill occupies a low ridge c. 90-100m AOD, aligned north to south on the eastern side of the valley of the River Cole	Mercia Mudstones	Urban	Historic settlement Settlement 1900-1955 Settlement post 1955 Civic/ commercial Designed landscape (sports fields) Horticultural (allotments)	The historic core of Coleshill dates from the medieval period and focuses on a north-south high street and church. Further elements of the historic street pattern also appear to survive. Areas of the town to the south and west are characterised by post-medieval and 20 th century expansion.
2	River Cole and alluvial floodplain	The River Cole extends from the south-west to the north-east of the study area	Alluvium	Agricultural-pastoral and arable Some public open space	Fieldsapes on floodplain Designed landscape/ public open space	Alluvial deposits are associated with the river which may mask and preserve archaeological and palaeo-environmental deposits. Former river channels have been identified which may have provided a focus for activities in the past. Past agriculture is indicated by areas of ridge and furrow.
3	Land west of Coleshill	On the west side of the town of Coleshill land gradually slopes westwards towards the River Cole at between 95 and 90m AOD	Mercia Mudstones and Arden Sandstones	Agricultural land – arable and pastoral Farmstead	Fieldsapes/ large irregular fields Fieldsapes/ paddocks Settlement/ historic farmstead	The river may have been a focus for past settlement and agriculture. Some former field boundaries have been identified through LiDAR. Wheeley Moor Farm which dates from at least the 18 th century is located in the south.
4	River terrace gravels east of River Cole	Occupies slightly higher ground above the river at c.80m AOD	River Terrace Deposits of sands and gravel with mudstones and sandstones to the east	Agricultural land- arable and pastoral some small scale settlement and commercial use	Fieldsapes-planned enclosure/ large rectilinear fields/ small rectilinear fields/ planned enclosure/ paddocks Settlement-historic farmstead	As with river terrace gravels elsewhere in the broader region there is some potential for archaeology from prehistoric and subsequent periods. The gravels include the site of a former hall and moat. Possible enclosures, field boundaries and ridge and furrow have also been identified, which are likely to date from the medieval to post-medieval periods.

No	Name	Topography	Geology/soils	Modern land use	Historic landscape character (HLC)	Archaeology
5	River terrace gravels west of River Cole	A loop in the River Cole above the floodplain at c. 80m AOD	River Terrace Deposits-sands and gravels	Agricultural-arable Modern cemetery Woodland	Fieldsapes-large irregular/large rectilinear Woodland-broadleaved plantation Designed landscape-cemetery	A post-medieval duck decoy pool and a modern cemetery and crematorium partly occupies the area and may have truncated earlier deposits. As with other river terrace gravels there may be potential for prehistoric, Romano-British and subsequent settlement.
6	Glacio-fluvial gravels and raised area north of River Cole	A slightly elevated area of land at up to 90m AOD	Glacio-fluvial gravels River Terrace Deposits-sand and gravel	Modern business park, including historic manor buildings and modern buildings A small group of modern houses Agricultural land – arable/ pastoral Woodland plantation	Commercial Fieldsapes-large irregular fields/ floodplain Woodland-broad-leaved plantation Settlement, 1900-1955	The sub-zone is within the former Coleshill deer park. Despite areas of development there is the potential for prehistoric and subsequent activity in proximity to the River Cole.
7	North-western extent of the Cole Valley	Land north of the River Cole which is relatively flat at c. 85m AOD	Mercia Mudstones	Agricultural-arable Some grassed parkland with woodland plantation	Fieldsapes-large irregular fields Woodland-broad leaved plantation Commercial	Former deer park boundary as depicted on 18 th century mapping is present within the area as a ditch, with broad banks to the north and small inner banks to the south-west. Ditches appear to have been cleaned out in recent years and woodland plantation at the outer edges of the boundary may have disturbed any archaeological deposits. The remaining areas are in relative proximity to the River Cole and above its floodplain which may suggest potential for settlement from prehistory and later periods.

No	Name	Topography	Geology/soils	Modern land use	Historic landscape character (HLC)	Archaeology
8	Water Orton settlement	At the edge of the floodplain at the crossing of the River Tame at c. 80m AOD	River Terrace Deposits-sands and gravels	Urban Railway lines cut east to west through the town Modern Residential and commercial expansion is present largely to the south of the railway line	Historic settlement core Late 19 th century settlement 1900-1955 settlement Post 1955 settlement Designed landscape (sports fields)	A former medieval chapel appears to have formed a focus of the settlement at the north of the town in the vicinity of the crossing of the River Tame. Historic buildings include timber framed houses dating from the 15 th and 16 th century. Field patterns and stray finds of medieval pottery may suggest that the historic town also extends further to the south. Much of the street pattern was established by at least the late 18 th century. The site of the medieval chapel has been subsumed by 19 th and early 20 th century burials. A sandstone cross is present at the site. There is archaeological potential within areas of known historic settlement.
9	The Tame Valley south of Water Orton	Land between the Cole and Tame valleys, sloping gradually towards the Tame between 85 and 80m AOD	Mercia Mudstones	Agricultural-arable/pastoral	Fieldsapes – large irregular fields/ re-organised piecemeal enclosure Woodland-broad leaved plantation	Some ridge and furrow may indicate medieval agriculture. Narrow field boundaries on the south side of the settlement of Water Orton may also indicate former medieval agriculture. An undated narrow circular ditch is likely to be a post-medieval feature. Some undated linear cropmarks may represent former field boundaries of unknown date. Stray finds include an early medieval coin towards the south of the area and medieval and post-medieval pottery.
10	Hill-slopes west of Water Orton	land rises to 100m AOD	Mudstones and superficial deposits of glacio-fluvial gravels and glacial head deposits. Artificial deposits to the east of the M6	Agricultural – arable and pastoral Some small areas of settlement and farmsteads	Fieldsapes-planned enclosure and other large rectilinear fields Industrial-utility Settlement 1900-1955 and post 1955	The area forms a localised hill-slope with gravels above the Tame, which may have some potential for activity in prehistory and subsequent periods. A large area of artificial deposits may relate to disturbance through the construction of the M6. Two possible enclosures recorded on historic aerial photographs, likely removed by motorway construction.

No	Name	Topography	Geology/soils	Modern land use	Historic landscape character (HLC)	Archaeology
11	Cole valley west of Coleshill	Land slopes gradually to the west towards the River Cole at between c. 85 and 80m AOD	Mercia Mudstones	Agricultural-largely arable	Fieldsapes-planned enclosure	Lands to the west of the historic town of Coleshill have been suggested to have been cultivated in the medieval period (Watkins 1982). Some former field boundaries have been identified through LiDAR on a similar alignment to existing boundaries (COLo23).
12	Area of Roman settlement and modern residential expansion	An area of higher ground north of the River Cole at Grimstock Hill, c.85-90m AOD	Glacio-lacustrine clays and silts and Glacio-fluvial sands and gravels	20 th century residential expansion. Some former quarrying has also taken place in this zone	Settlement,1900-1955 and post 1955 Civic (school) Woodland-Broadleaved plantation	A Roman Temple and Iron Age settlement were excavated in advance of residential and industrial development. Development will have removed the majority of any archaeological remains. Historic gravel quarries to the west of the area will also have removed any earlier archaeology. A strip of green public open space between settlement and industrial areas may have potential for archaeological remains.
13	Higher ground west of Coleshill residential expansion	Chattle Hill rises from c. 80m AOD up to 100m	Glacio-fluvial sand and gravels Glacio-lacustrine clays and silts	Agricultural – pastoral Some commercial and settlement Allotments	Fieldsapes-piecemeal enclosure and large irregular fields Historic settlement (Gilson) Civic/ commercial (hotel) Settlement 1900-1955 Horticultural (allotment)	The area is located to the west of known Iron Age and Romano-British settlement. Stray finds include a Romano-British brooch from the vicinity. There may be potential, therefore, for archaeological remains of these and other periods in this zone.
14	Valley floor at Gilson	Lower ground, c. 80-85m AOD, surrounding the western slopes of Grimstock Hill	Mercia Mudstone	Agricultural land – pasture Sports pitches in the north-east of the area	Fieldsapes-piecemeal enclosure Designed landscape-sports fields	Settlement at Gilson has been recorded in documentary sources from the medieval period (Watkins 1982). Some ridge and furrow has been identified from aerial photographs. Some possible small quarries have been identified through LiDAR, which may have removed any earlier archaeological deposits.

No	Name	Topography	Geology/soils	Modern land use	Historic landscape character (HLC)	Archaeology
15	Higher ground around Attleboro Farm	The land rises to the west above the valley of the Cole up to c.100m AOD	Mercia Mudstone group-siltstone	Agricultural-arable Settlement and gardens /paddock-converted farm buildings The M42 bisects the zone, with embankments	Fieldsapes-planned enclosure/ large irregular fields Historic farmstead (Attleboro Farm)	This elevated area of topography may have formed a focus for past activity. Stray finds in the area include an early medieval coin. A Palaeolithic hand-axe from the vicinity may indicate the potential for sub-surface deposits. Former trackway noted on aerial photographs.
16	Industrial development north of Coleshill	Land south of the River Tame and west of the River Cole, sloping to the north-east between c.85 and 75m AOD	Partly on alluvial deposits and partly on River Terrace gravels	A 20 th century industrial estate	Industrial-post 1955 industrial complex	Known Late prehistoric and Romano-British settlement to the west. Construction of an industrial estate is likely, however, to have substantially truncated any archaeological deposits.
17	River terrace gravels south and west of Water Orton	Relatively flat agricultural landscape at c. 80m AOD	River Terrace Deposits-sand and gravels	Agricultural land use. Largely pasture and woodland/ scrub with some arable	Fieldsapes-large irregular fields/ piecemeal enclosure Broad leaved plantation	Some narrow strip fields may indicate areas of medieval agriculture. Some ridge and furrow recorded (COLO44) and possible former field boundaries (COLO93). These areas of gravels may have potential for prehistoric and later land use and settlement above the floodplain of the River Tame. Some ponds in the area may indicate small scale former quarries.
18	River terrace gravels south of the River Tame	South of the River Tame above the floodplain at c. 80m AOD	River Terrace Deposits-sand and gravel	Pasture with woodland and scrub The railway cuts through these areas along with a number of drainage channels	Unimproved scrubland Marsh Large irregular fields Floodplain	There may be some potential for evidence of past land-use and archaeological deposits from prehistory onwards. Land division and ridge and furrow earthworks identified in LiDAR data (COLO48). Some possible cropmarks to the west of the area identified (COLO48). The area appears not to have been extensively developed, beyond the existing road and rail corridors, despite extensive industrial development in surrounding areas.

No	Name	Topography	Geology/soils	Modern land use	Historic landscape character (HLC)	Archaeology
19	River Tame and alluvial floodplain	Floodplain of the River Tame at c. 80m AOD	Alluvial deposits	20 th century industrial development including extensive sewage works and sludge beds	<p>Industrial-post 1955 industrial complex</p> <p>Fieldsapes-floodplain</p> <p>Woodland-broad leaved plantation</p> <p>Water-artificial pond/lake/watercourse</p> <p>Water/ valley floor-marsh</p> <p>Industrial-utility works</p> <p>Water/ valley floor natural open water (River Tame)</p>	Despite industrial development, there may be potential for palaeo-environmental data within any deeply buried alluvial deposits.
20	Gravels and rising ground south of the valley of the River Cole	Slightly raised topography towards the south of the river valley from 95m to 100m AOD	Glacio-fluvial sands and gravels on the higher ground, over Mercia Mudstones. Some artificial ground	<p>Agricultural-arable and pastoral</p> <p>Two farmsteads</p> <p>Modern road network</p> <p>An industrial depot is also present</p>	<p>Fieldsapes-planned enclosure, large irregular fields, closes</p> <p>Industrial-motorway, depot</p> <p>Farm complex-historic farmsteads (Pool Farm and Brickhill Street Farm)</p>	Some potential for archaeological deposits on agricultural ground above the floodplain of the River Cole, from prehistory onwards.
21	Mudstones south of the River Cole	An area of slightly rising topography between 85m and 95m AOD at the edge of the River Cole floodplain.	Mercia mudstones	Agricultural-large arable fields with some pastoral land	<p>Fieldsapes-large irregular fields with substantial drainage</p> <p>Fieldsapes-paddocks and closes</p>	Archaeological earthworks of probable medieval post-medieval date have been identified in the area and the proximity to the river course may indicate potential for archaeological deposits from prehistory onwards.

Appendix CH-001-019 | Archaeological character

No	Name	Topography	Geology/soils	Modern land use	Historic landscape character (HLC)	Archaeology
22	Urban development west of the M6 at Fordbridge, Kingshurst and Smith's Wood	Landscaped urban area above the rivers Cole and Tame, rising up to 100m OD at the north.	Mercia mudstones with superficial deposits of glacial head (clays silts sands and gravels) to the north at Smiths Wood and alluvium along the River Cole towards the south	Extensive urban development west of the M6, forming the eastern extent of the West Midlands conurbation	Settlement-post 1955 terraced housing Civic-schools Civic/ commercial buildings Designed Landscape, public open space –(Bacon's End Green and Woodlands Green)	Some un-developed areas exist at Smith's Wood, and at Bosworth Wood, but otherwise the area is characterised by dense urban development and landscaping with little archaeological potential.
23	Motorway infrastructure	Modern motorways	N/A	The M6, M42 and M6 Toll all extend through the study area	Transportation/ motorway	The construction of these motorways will have removed any archaeology within their footprint.

8 Analysis and research potential

8.1 Analysis of understanding

- 8.1.1 The study area is characterised by the valleys of the rivers Cole and Tame with the historic settlements of Coleshill to the east and Water Orton to the north. Large areas of the study area have been subject to 20th century development. Expansion of the towns of Coleshill and Water Orton has taken place from the 19th century with the introduction of railway infrastructure and associated industrial and residential expansion. The River Tame has been the focus of significant industrial development from at least the mid-20th century, with the development of power stations and other infrastructure such as extensive sludge beds. Three major motorways (The M6, M42 and M6 Toll) have also been constructed through the study area and will also have removed any archaeological deposits. Despite extensive areas of urban and industrial development and the presence of motorway infrastructure, archaeological remains have been identified and archaeological potential exists within undeveloped areas and historic settlements.
- 8.1.2 Alluvial deposits associated with the rivers Cole and Tame together with identified palaeo-channels, have the potential to mask unknown archaeological remains and to preserve palaeo-environmental deposits from the prehistoric period onwards (sub-zones 2 and 19). Both existing river courses and palaeo-channels have the potential to have formed a focus for past activities from prehistory to the post-medieval period, as demonstrated at smaller water courses beyond the study area to the north¹⁸¹. Documentary evidence indicates that the rivers Cole and Tame were a focus for mills in the medieval and post-medieval periods and the location of a mill on the River Cole has been identified from historic mapping¹⁸².
- 8.1.3 There may be potential for Palaeolithic deposits within geological sequences associated with the River Tame¹⁸³. This is supported by a recorded stray find of a Palaeolithic hand axe south of Water Orton. Gravel terraces of rivers within the study area (sub-zones 4, 5, 17, 18) have the potential to have formed a focus for Neolithic and Bronze Age funerary and ceremonial activity¹⁸⁴, together with later prehistoric land division, as demonstrated elsewhere in the West Midlands¹⁸⁵. There is, however, little convincing evidence from aerial photographic evidence for the study area to suggest that river terraces formed a focus of activity in prehistory. Some possible Bronze Age flintwork has, however, been recorded to the east of the River Cole¹⁸⁶ (sub-zone 4).
- 8.1.4 Higher ground to the east of the Cole Valley at Grimstock Hill has evidence for Iron Age and Romano-British settlement, including a significant temple site (sub-zone 12). These remains were excavated in advance of past residential and industrial development¹⁸⁷, yet there may remain some potential for further settlement in

¹⁸¹ Powell et al. (2008), 337.

¹⁸² Watkins (1982), 29.

¹⁸³ Lang, A. and Buteux, S. (2007), 19.

¹⁸⁴ Garwood (2011), 68-71.

¹⁸⁵ Coates, G. (2002).

¹⁸⁶ Powell et al. (2008), 506.

¹⁸⁷ Magilton, J. (2006).

surrounding areas to the west (sub-zone 13). Residual flintwork recorded in past excavations at Grimstock Hill (sub-zone 12) may indicate an earlier prehistoric settlement and activity upon areas of elevated ground above the River Valley. Flintwork recorded elsewhere in the study area¹⁸⁸ (sub-zone 4) has been recorded from lower elevations within the Cole Valley, indicating that prehistoric settlement activity may not be confined to higher ground.

- 8.1.5 Other raised areas within the topography of the study area may also have formed a focus for prehistoric and subsequent settlement, although there is little evidence beyond post-medieval land use, such as the areas to the south and west of Water Orton (sub-zone 15) and to the south of the River Cole (sub-zone 20). A raised area of gravels within the area above the floodplain of the River Cole (sub-zone 6) may have potential for prehistoric and subsequent settlement. Much of the area has, however, been developed through the 19th century hall and modern development and landscaping, although there may remain some potential within agricultural areas of the sub-zone surrounding the manor complex.
- 8.1.6 Documentary evidence indicates medieval settlement at Coleshill, with the town focussed on a natural ridge in the east of the study area and at Water Orton, situated south of a crossing of the River Tame. There is clearly potential for archaeological remains relating to the medieval periods within these towns. Evidence for medieval field systems has been identified to the south and west of Water Orton (sub-zones 9 and 17). Documentary and place name evidence also suggests that the small settlement at Gilson has medieval origins (sub-zones 13 and 14).
- 8.1.7 The clearest evidence for archaeological remains of the medieval and post medieval periods has been recorded within the valley of the River Cole. The earthworks of a potentially medieval moat have been recorded at Coleshill Hall Farm (sub-zone 4) together with the earthwork boundary of a former deer park (sub-zones 6 and 7). Further earthwork evidence for ridge and furrow cultivation, field boundaries and enclosures have been identified within the Cole valley which have the potential to date from the medieval and post-medieval periods. A number of earthwork boundaries and enclosures identified from LiDAR data indicate further areas of occupation within the Cole valley in the medieval and post-medieval periods (sub-zones 4 and 21). Fieldsapes within the valley of the River Cole represent post-medieval agriculture and historic farmsteads have been identified within the valley and on slightly higher ground to the south, east and west of the river (sub-zones 3, 4, 15 and 20).
- 8.1.8 The western part of the study area is characterised by dense urban development with little archaeological potential (sub-zone 22). Clearly extensive areas of the study area are characterised by existing motorway infrastructure which will have truncated any archaeological remains in these areas (sub-zone 23).

¹⁸⁸ Powell et al. (2008), 506.

8.2 Research potential and priorities

8.2.1 An archaeological Research Framework for the West Midlands¹⁸⁹ provides an introduction to key themes of research in the region by period. Reflecting the potential of the land required for the Proposed Scheme in this CFA, and drawing on the general themes identified in the published research framework, the following questions could provide the focus for investigation carried out in this study area in terms of period based and multi-period based landscape research:

- can waterlogged deposits within the study area provide evidence of the environment in the prehistoric and Romano-British periods, particularly associated with the rivers Cole and Tame and the known palaeo-channels in the study area?
- what can artefact concentrations from varying soil types, tell us about exploitation of the landscape in the prehistoric periods?
- how does soil chemistry in the study area affect the preservation of archaeological remains and how has that influenced our understanding of human activity in the study area?
- is aerial photography a reliable indicator of presence or absence of sites on the geologies of the study area?
- through the recovery of environmental evidence, can any light be shed on the Mesolithic-Neolithic transition in the region and can areas of Mesolithic activity shed light on Early Neolithic activity?
- are Palaeolithic deposits present within geological sequences associated with the river Tame? Can any deposits contribute to the understanding of environmental conditions or human populations during this period?
- small streams and tributaries have the potential for Mesolithic flint scatters in their vicinity¹⁹⁰. Can Mesolithic occupation be identified through flint scatters within plough soil horizons and does Mesolithic settlement focus upon small watercourses and tributaries or palaeo channels?
- what can the presence or absence of any flintwork in the ploughsoil reveal about relative intensities of Neolithic and Bronze Age occupation in the landscape?
- are any Neolithic pit groups present in the study area and there any funerary and ceremonial monuments of this period present in the landscape, given that they are known in the wider West Midlands region?
- are there remains of early Bronze Age funerary and ceremonial activity, as well as settlement and land use, on the gravel terraces of the river Tame? Do crop marks in the area represent ring ditches and is there any evidence for burnt mounds in association with small watercourses or palaeo channels? Is there

¹⁸⁹ Watt, S., ed. (2011), *The Archaeology of the west midlands: a framework for research*. Oxford: Oxbow Books.

¹⁹⁰ Powell et al. (2008), Hodder 2004.

any evidence for Late Bronze Age settlement on the gravel terraces of the rivers within the study area?

- is there evidence for further Iron Age and Roman within the study area in addition to Grimstock Hill, Coleshill? Does Iron Age settlement extend beyond areas previously identified into the valleys of the rivers Cole or Tame and could known cropmarks near Coleshill date to this period?
- is there any evidence for early medieval settlement remains in the in the study area?
- does the moat at Coleshill date from the medieval period? Do any structural remains relating to an earlier hall survive, as suggested by aerial photography and 18th century illustrations and what was the status and phases of development of the site? Do waterlogged artefacts and palaeo-environmental data survive in the moat?
- at Coleshill Hall Farm, what is the date and function of earthwork enclosures, platforms and land divisions south of the farm and south of Green Lane, and are they contemporary with the moated site? Can the existing buildings explain the phases of development of the site? How old is park enclosure surrounding Coleshill Manor and to what extent do portions of the [original] boundary banks survive?
- is there any archaeological evidence to support the documentary records for a medieval mill on the river Cole, and settlements of this date at Gilson and Water Orton?
- do the field names Dovehouse Meadow and Kiln Field, recorded on 18th century mapping indicate the presence of archaeological remains?
- what are the date, function and chronological development of buildings at the existing Capitol Joinery timber yard?

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